Thursday, October 25, 2012 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 319 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

Comelec drops 15 more party-list groups

By Jaclyn R. Uy

A GROUP of former prisoners led by ex-convict Romeo Jalosjos Jr. and an organization formerly represented by fugitive retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan were among the 15 party-list groups that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday disqualified from next year's balloting.

The Comelec decision brought to 50 the number of groups it had so far dropped from the list of organizations qualified to take part in the midterm elections in May.

At a press conference, Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. announced that the poll body had canceled the accreditation of Kapatiran ng mga Nabilanggo na Walang Sala (Kalinaw) and Bantay.

Kalinaw, which identifies Jalosjos, a former Zamboanga del Norte representative convicted of raping a minor, as its president and chair emeritus, is supposed to represent the interests who continue to languish in jails and those who have already served their sentences.

Garnering 234,780 votes in the 2010 elections, Kalinaw earned a

COMELEC: A13

US ARMADA The nuclear-powered US Navy aircraft carrier USS George Washington anchors on Manila Bay on Wednesday. The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier is here for a goodwill visit. MARK CUNIAL

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

PH has a new cardinal

Pope surprises Archbishop Tagle

ARCHBISHOP Luis Antonio Tagle

By Philip C. Tubeza

POPE Benedict XVI has added Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle and five other prelates to the ranks of cardinals who will elect his successor.

Benedict made the surprise announcement during his weekly general audience in the Vatican yesterday and said the new cardinals would be elevated to a consistory on Nov 24.

The nominations help even out the geographic distribution of cardinals, which had tilted heavily toward Italy, according to the Associated Press.

Aside from Tagle, the other new cardinals are Msgr. James Harvey, the American prefect of the Pope's household; Archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria, John Olumuleni Onaiyekan; Archbishop of Bogota, Colombia, Ruben Salazar Gomez; Patriarch of Antioch of the Maronites in Lebanon, Bechara Boutros Rai; and the Major Archbishop of the Trivandrum of the Syro-Malankarese in India Basilios Cleemis Thottunkal.

Tagle becomes the Philippines' seventh cardinal, following Cardinals Gaudencio Rosales, Jose Sanchez, Ricardo Vidal, Jaime Sin, Julio Rosales and Rufino Santos.

Tagle, 55, is currently in Rome for the synod of bishops on the new evangelization.

While his fellow Filipino bishops did not vote for Tagle as one of their representatives to the synod, the Pope named him a

MANILA: A17

PH cyberworld erupts with joy over Tagle elevation / A17

Malversation rap vs GMA dismissed

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has dismissed for lack of evidence charges against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with the alleged diversion of more than P500 million meant for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to her election campaign in 2004.

A 67-page memorandum and an 11-page supplemental memorandum issued by a panel of investigators and approved by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales found no sufficient evidence against Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative, and 11 other officials of her administration.

The two charges of technical malversation allegedly using funds of the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (Owwa) were recommended by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The first charge accused involved P939,382,444 allegedly

MALVERSATION: A11

Australia backs code of conduct in disputed sea

By Michael Lim Ubac

CANBERRA, Australia (via PLDT)—The Australian government headed by Prime Minister Julia Gillard on Wednesday joined the Philippines and New Zealand in seeking the adoption of a joint code of conduct for the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) to prevent rival territorial claims in the area from leading to armed confrontations.

Gillard congratulated President Aquino, who arrived here Tuesday night for a three-day state visit, for his administration's signing a preliminary peace agreement with Muslim insurgents in Mindanao.

Mr. Aquino and Gillard had a bilateral meeting and Philippine and Australian ministers had an expanded bilateral meeting on Wednesday. Both meetings were held in Parliament House.

Australian officials said they wanted stability in the West Philippine Sea, where the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan dispute

AUSTRALIA: A14

P-Noy talks ill, cuts short dinner with PM Gillard / A10

In Gov. Baby's face, Mar orders stop to 'jueteng'

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—Before police and local officials, including the wife of alleged "jueteng" lord Roderto "Boying" Pineda, Interior Secretary Manuel Roxas II ordered the police yesterday to stop the illegal numbers

IN GOV'S FACE: A14

THREE MORE YEARS Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez shakes the hand of Emerson L. Benitez, officer in charge of Light Rail Transit Authority, after signing the three-year memorandum of agreement which will allow copies of InQuirer Libre to be distributed in stations of both LRT Lines 1 and 2. LRT riders have been enjoying InQuirer Libre for the past 11 years.

Apple jumps gun on rivals with iPad mini

SAN JOSE, California—Apple introduced the iPad mini on Tuesday, confident that a smaller version of its beloved tablet computer will trump lower-priced offerings by rivals Amazon, Google and Samsung.

"This is iPad mini," Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president for marketing, said as he displayed the new gadget at a company event in San Jose.

"This isn't just a shrunken down iPad," Schiller said. "It is an entirely new design."

Chief executive Tim Cook coolly presided over the launch of what was considered his

TABLET WAR: A17

A Halloween Circus Treat For The Whole Family At Resorts World Manila

The family is in for a grand "Trick or Treat" at Resorts World Manila this Sunday, October 28, 3-9PM, as the country's foremost destination for exciting thrills stages its "Halloween Circus" at the Newport Mall Plaza.

Free yourself a scary face and snap hair-raising photos at the free photo booth. Kids of all ages can gather for treats with ice cream, popcorn, and root beer galore! Bond with the entire family as top crowdpleasers and members Dion, Power Dion, Iranian Samas, and top ventriloquist Wacky perform their jaw-dropping solo onstage.

Bring the entire family to this grand event this Sunday, only at the country's first one-stop, nonstop tourism and entertainment destination, Resorts World Manila. Visit www.rwmanila.com or call (632) 908-8333 for more details.

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'Ofel' triggers heavy rains in Visayas, Mindanao

By DJ Yap

TROPICAL Depression "Ofel" strengthened into a storm and made landfall on Siargao yesterday, hurling the teardrop-shaped island facing the Pacific Ocean and prompting the weather bureau to raise storm signals in more than two dozen areas across the country.

Ofel was moving west-northwest toward Central Visayas at a speed of 22 kilometers per hour, with sustained winds of 65 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 80 kph, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Pagasa expects Ofel to be in the vicinity of Roxas City in Capiz by this morning.

By tomorrow morning, the storm will have moved to within 180 km west of Masagbo, Batangas, and its effects will be felt in Metro Manila, Pagasa said.

But Metro Manila will experi-

(RAIN): A17

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/42	8	9
6/55	22	9
6/58	12	9
SUPER 6/49		
6/45	5	8	9
6/55	2	7	2
6/58	0	5	1

FOUR DIGIT

	8 4 6 9

MEGA LOTTO 6/45

	10 14 18 25 27 36
	P4,500,000.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

	20 36 45 49 51 54
	P210,000,000.00

Kapunan jailers face contempt

By Nathaniel P. Mallcon

THE ANTIPOLO Regional Trial Court (RTC) is expected to issue another order today compelling the Philippine Army to transfer retired Lt. Col. Eduardo "Red" Kapunan Jr. from Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City where he is currently detained to a civilian detention center.

Antipolo RTC Branch 96 Judge Ma. Consuelo-Gengos Ignalaga yesterday also issued a show-cause order to the Philippine Army as why Kapunan's custodians should not be cited in contempt for ignoring the court's order on Monday to have Kapunan sent to Rizal Provincial Jail since the Army no longer has jurisdiction over him because he is already retired.

Another phase of detention being curtailed is the detention center of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Ignalaga yesterday tabled in representations from the NBI, who confirmed they can accommodate Kapunan in its detention facility in Manila.

Josefito Amor, the NBI's officer in charge for its legal division, told the court that the NBI detention center has adequate security, in some Manila Chinese, "Hospital and Philippine General Hospital, and has a doctor on duty anytime of the day, should Kapunan have any health issues arising from his heart ailment and diabetes.

Ofelia clip suspect

Kapunan is one of the accused in the murder of labor leader Rolando Ofelia and his driver, Leonor Alas-ay, on Nov. 15, 1986.

On Tuesday, private prosecutor and Ofelia family lawyer Edre Olalia blasted the Philippine Army for disregarding the court's order to transfer Kapunan from his detention facility in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, to Rizal Provincial Jail.

The Army notified the court that it did not consider Kapunan to be jail because the latter's lawyers had appealed the transfer order.

At yesterday's hearing, a former policeman revealed that his group was brought into the plot to kill Ofelia by Kapunan, who was his master-flairy superior.

T/Sgt. Michaelo Dechoe Saavedra said in open court that Kapunan brought him in and ordered him to the officers who were planning to kill Ofelia.

"I got involved in the job (to kill Ofelia) when I was called for by Col. Kapunan to his office," Saavedra said in his testimony before Judge Ignalaga yesterday.

His order from Kapunan

Saavedra said that Kapunan had asked him to help one of his other men augment in the job.

"I reported [to Kapunan] in the first week of November 1986 in his office ... he urged me to help Dpt. Ricardo Bautista [get his job done]," he said.

It was only when Barrios approached Saavedra that he knew the person they were monitoring.

"When I found out [Saavedra, I told him I was sent by Col. Kapunan to help him in his job. He was delighted and appreciated it, then he told me that he was working on [Rolando] Ofelia," he said.

Saavedra noted that Bautista did not know Ofelia as much, as it was a major breakthrough for the team when they found a story about Ofelia in a major newspaper that same week.

"The story said he will address the employees of United on Nov. 12 at Kamagay [Saavedra's former nom de guerre]. Saavedra was delighted with the news," he said.

The group then conducted reconnaissance operations on the venue before attending the program on Nov. 12, 1986.

The trial will resume on Oct. 30.

ON TRIAL Retired Army colonel Red Kapunan and wife Rosa (right) listen as his lawyers, Lorna Kapunan, complain to prosecutor and family lawyer Edre Olalia about an inquiry into which Olalia, The retired Army officer is on trial for the 1986 murder of labor leader Rolando Olalia.

INQUIRER PHOTO

Disabled, netizens don't find P-Noy joke funny

By Christian V. Esguerra

BLASTING away at his unpopular predecessor has been a surefire way of playing up to the gallery, but did a wisecracking President Aquino cross the line this time?

At a gathering of the Filipino community in New Zealand last Monday, Mr. Aquino took the opportunity to assail yet again former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The joke – Palace mouthpiece Abigail Valte couldn't quite decide whether it was a joke or not – whipped up a storm of criticism on social media, especially among "persons with disabilities" (PWD) and those who sympathized with them.

Angry netizens took the President to task for cracking a joke that he apparently picked up from a text message. "Pero sa totoo lang people bash lamat sobra [After heavy and repentive cuts. And yet when they want to escape, they choose to use a wheelchair."

Not funny

From the tone of the reactions on Facebook and Twitter, it did not look like netizens were buying the Palace's explanation that Mr. Aquino was only repeating a joke and that it was no part of his prepared speech.

A PWD meme was circulating on Facebook shows the image of a woman amid a legless man on a wheelchair.

"Dear Mr. President, we are really offended. Who wants to be wheelchair-bound anyway? Lesser the unfortunate and jokes for Pilot Elenda. Your's darling and being President for once," it said.

Many of the reactions described Mr. Aquino's joke, if it was one, as "insensitive, uncalled for, inappropriate, unprofessional, childish."

'Sick' joke

Ferdinand Topacio, Arroyo's lawyer, said the joke gave the impression that in the Philippines, "we ridicule the sick."

"If he were in Bahay Pangarap and drinking with his BFF (Enrique Razon, Jr.), Razon, whose wheelchair Senator Jinggoy Estrada was also reportedly offended by the remark, reminded the President that his best brother, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, also has to use a wheelchair at one point.

Another Internet meme showed a picture of Mr. Aquino doing off while sitting with other presidential candidates during the campaign for the presidency in 2010. The picture was photo-edit by side with one showing Arroyo wearing a neck brace and seated on a wheelchair.

"Of these pictures, which one is really funny and embarrassing?" and the accompanying caption in Filipino.

Some of the reactions resurrected the issue, on another Aquino.

A certain Lito Belarmino suggested that the President take a "psychological exam," while another described him as "inutile."

One woman hoped that Mr. Aquino would reconsider long enough so he would find himself subjected to ridicule.

"You will end up in wheelchair, too, P-Noy! Remember that!" wrote another.

Unpardonably unbecoming

House Minority Leader Danilo Suarez said the President's statements as being "unpardonably and unbecoming" a person in his position.

"It is insensitive to an ailing former member and disrespectful of a former head of state," he told a press briefing.

According to Suarez, the House minority has taken offense at the jokes that Mr. Aquino cracked during a speech before the Filipino community in Auckland. He mentioned that Team Bird transfer corruption being similar to making a shop's bone marrow after milking it, and of supposedly corrupt Filipinos using the wheelchair to escape accountability.

The Frontliner frequently takes a swipe at his predecessor in his public statements, criticizing Arroyo for her alleged-ly corrupt administration.

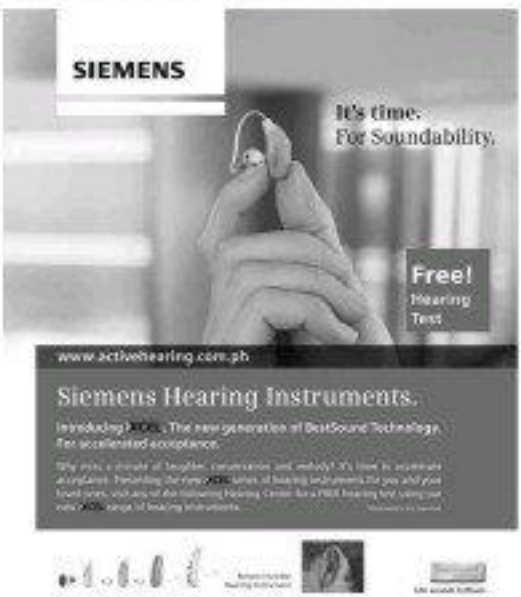
Suarez said the President was resorting to jokes about his predecessor to mask the "misdeeds" of his administration.

He said Mr. Aquino's joking references to Arroyo were helping to take attention away from statutory truths in the country.

"All of this comedy also helps to cover up the latest missteps in the administration's economic and political governance," he said.

One of those is the impending increase in Metro Rail Transit (MRT) fares, which would be an added burden to commuters.

"This defines the very purpose of both the MRT and LRT (Light Rail Transit), which is to provide affordable transportation for the masses, especially students and the elderly," he said.



Reyeses in US? Leila to check

By Christine O. Avendaño

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima said yesterday she was verifying reports that Reynaldo Reyes Jr. and Maria Reyes are living in the United States.

De Lima said she was not aware that the two former Palawan officials, who are the suspected masterminds in the killing of environmentalist Dr. Gerry Ortega last year, had flown to the US.

Ortega's daughter Mikai had told ambassador station that she had been getting reports that the Reyes brothers may be in the US because Joel's wife, Palawan Vice Gov. Claire Reyes, flew to the US on June 20 and stayed there for a month. The Reyes brothers allegedly left the Philippines for Vietnam on March 18.

"But I'm verifying," De Lima said in a text message, adding that she had standing orders for both the National Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Immigration for their units in the hinterland to coordinate with their counterparts "[w]henever concrete Reyeses may have been reported in have-fled."

Should there be a confirmation that the Reyes brothers were indeed in the US, the justice secretary said she would seek help from Washington to have them extradited.

The Reyes brothers were charged in connection with Ortega's killing in January last year. They filed the motions before an arrest warrant and hold departure order could be issued by the court.

Ortega had been known to give hard-hitting radio commentaries on illegal mining activities in Palawan.

Binay urges Israel to buy more products from PH

By Tara Quimundo

MCE President Jejomar Binay on Tuesday encouraged the Israeli government and business community to expand trade with the Philippines, citing potentials for wider agricultural exchanges, including fresh produce and technical know-how.

Kicking off his six-day visit in Israel on Oct. 23, Binay met with Israeli President Shimon Peres at the Presidential Residence in Jerusalem and encouraged officials to "explore new trade and investment opportunities in the Philippines," his office said yesterday.

"The Philippine-Israel bilateral trade is presently a very small percentage of the overall Israel-Asia two-way trade. I hope that our strengthening bilateral relations translate to more investments between our countries," Binay said in his meeting with Peres.

He specifically made a pitch for the country's pineapples and coconuts, predicting the Israel side to request more of the products.

"I hope that more Philippine fresh produce such as pineapples and coconuts would find their way into the mainstream Israeli retail market. The embassy has initiated the mechanism for the approval of pineapple importation to Israel in coordination with the Israel Ministry of Agriculture," he added.

He also called for wider exchanges in agricultural technologies between the Philippines and Israel, with the latter having one of the world's most advanced agri-technical systems.

Israel has also been hosting Filipino agricultural scholars into its international agriculture program.

"This year, Filipinos reaped enrollment quotas and outnumbered students from other Asian countries in the program, which brought trainees around agricultural facilities and villages around Israel.

"I am happy to note that Filipino agricultural workers are being employed in Israel's agricultural technology that is considered among the best in the world," Binay said.

Binay will also visit Israeli kibbutz that house victims of the Holocaust and later meet with the Filipino community in Tel Aviv.

Binay's Israel trip follows his swing through the Vatican, where he witnessed the canonization of the Cainta Pedro Calungsod, and Brunei, Belgium, where he took part in the 2012 European Development Days, the region's forumon international development issues.

PNP wants cameras in all shops

By Nikko Dizon

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) wants CCTV security systems mandatory in all shops nationwide as a deterrent to crime.

PNP Chief Director General Nicanor Bartolome said in a statement that he would propose the measure to Interior Secretary Mar Roxas when the National Peace and Order Council (NPOC) convenes on its next meeting, and monitor the council to adopt the measure for a nationwide implementation by all local government units (LGUs).

The PNP seeks to replicate nationwide local government ordinances that include CCTVs as one of the requirements for establishments before they are given business clearance and permits to operate.

Bartolome said that a "small investment" such as the installation of CCTVs would benefit business operators as crimes would be "diminished."

"After all, it makes better business sense to invest on security than take the risk," Bartolome said.

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Generoso Cerbo Jr. said that CCTVs "amplify the certainty of arrest and punishment of criminal offenders, thus, increasing its crime deterrent effect."

Cerbo added that LGUs that require business establishments to install CCTV security systems now have better "peace and order situations."

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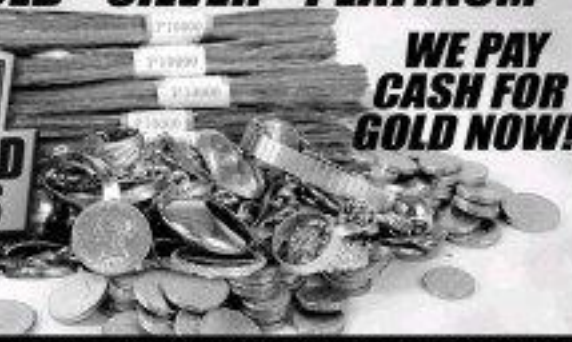

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Correction

IN THE OCT. 24 ISSUE, a photo caption on Page A20 erroneously described the traditional greeting of the Maori, New Zealand's indigenous people. "Hongi" involves the touching of noses—not rubbing of foreheads—to exchange the "ha" (breath of life).

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to The Day Desk, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, 185 Salcedo Cities Point Avenue corner Manuela Street, Makati City, fax nos. 897-47-93/98, e-mail address: dayded@inquirer.com.ph.

idec
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UP grade school reunion

MEMBERS of the University of the Philippines (UP) Elementary School batch 1967 will hold their anniversary celebrations on Nov. 9 at 11:30 a.m. at the UP Sta. Rosa, and on Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. at the UP Executive House, Diliman, Quezon City. Lyn Campos-Jolo Lozada has sponsored lunch. 67 members to confirm their attendance by calling 9296618 and 9713326 (office hours), or e-mail jolilou@gmail.com.

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US warship rescues 5 Pinoy fishermen in distress

A UNITED States Navy warship rescued five Filipino fishermen yesterday after an helicopter pilot spotted them waving a bamboo mesh in the middle of the night while standing on the roof of their sinking boat, US Embassy officials said.

A Navy helicopter spotted the fishermen at around 2:30 a.m. (several minutes past after midnight, Manila time) after the fishing boat started sinking in waters said Tina Mallone, the US Embassy spokesperson in Manila.

The guided-missile destroyer USS McCampbell, which was closest to the scene, launched two boats to rescue them.

The current is part of the USS George Washington Carrier Strike Group, which entered the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) several days ago in a show of American power in waters where China has been squabbling with neighbors such as Vietnam and the Philippines over who has the control of a string of tiny islands.

Mallone said the fishermen were given a checkup and were found to be in good health. They will be brought ashore when the USS McCampbell arrives in Manila on Wednesday, as part of a five-day goodwill visit.

The United States says it wants to keep the waterways open to international navigation and has urged China and other claimants to settle territorial disputes peacefully. Washington also has a defense treaty with the Philippines and has been helping to modernize the poorly equipped Philippine Navy to defend Manila's claims.

PCG spokesperson Commander Armand Balilo identified the fishermen as Richard Bulu, 27; Noel Aque, 20; Jimmy Aque, 24; Romeo Loono, 39; and Erick Alindo, 26, all residents of Barangay Cawak, Isulan, Zambales.

Balilo said the fishermen were discovered by one of the helicopter pilots embarked on the USS McCampbell during a routine night-time patrol at about midnight.

He said the fishermen went on a fishing trip last Friday. The fishing boat reportedly started taking on water early Wednesday, and took refuge on coral islands in the area to avoid the US Navy.

Balilo, one of the fishermen, said they were spooked by US pilots searching on the roof of their boats holding an improvised flare.

"Lumabog po ang hangin noonin, mga 11:00 (ng gabi). Mga 12:30 po, dumaan ang helicopter nila. Gumawa po kami ng paraan para maipasabi nila kay Mang Ingkong po kami ng ayos na may distress kami. Ayaan naman ng gan ngan nila dahil nasira ang boat kasi started making about 11 at night. Around midnight, a helicopter passed over us. We figured out a way to get their attention. We put a piece of cloth at the end of a bamboo pole, dipped it in gas and lit it," he added.

The USS George Washington is a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier that was first launched in July 1990 and was commissioned in July 1992.

One of the largest warships in the world, the carrier engages in maritime security operations, supports ground forces and provides humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

According to the US Navy website, its length spans a total of 1,092 feet (332.9 meters) while its flight deck width measures 257 feet (78.3 meters). The warship can accommodate 80 planes and nearly 5,680 crew on board.

Before its current homeport in Yokosuka, Japan, the USS George Washington was deployed for operations in the Mediterranean Sea, Persian Gulf and the Caribbean. – AP, Inez Quintos-Deala, Tina G. Santos, Lawrence de Guzman

AIRPORT CHECK
Transportation and Communication Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya (r. partner) walks with Manila International Airport Authority general manager Jose Angel Honrado during an inspection on Wednesday of the Terminal 1 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The newly installed transport secretary made the inspection in the wake of the selection of Manila as "the worst airport in Asia" in 2012 by the readers of the online travel site "The Guide to Sleeping in Airports." ERIC ALFONSO

Koko not giving up on antidynasty bill

By Norman Bordadora and Jervette Aning

EVEN a generation of lawmakers made up of dynasties can come up with the necessary anti-dynasty legislation, said Sen. Koko Pimentel, who chairs the Senate committee on electoral reforms.

Though it was unlikely that Sen. Alfredo Lagman Sotto's bill banning political dynasties can be approved in time for the 2013 elections, Pimentel said his committee would conduct hearings on the bill to come up with a definition of what a political dynasty is.

He said he expected the committee to come up with a better, improved version of the Sotto's bill, which could then be refiled in the next Congress.

As for the prospects of an anti-dynasty bill in a new Congress expected to be dominated by members of political families, Pimentel said he was banking on the offspring of political clans being better educated.

PIMENTEL

Politician's child

"I never lose hope because thinking really changes across generations. The child of a politician may be more modern in his or her thinking, he or she may have studied more deeply than his or her parents," he said.

Pimentel himself comes from an incipient political dynasty being the son and heir of a long serving senator, Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Had Pimentel secured his Senate seat immediately after the 2007 elections, he would have served in the chamber simultaneously with his father, who ended his second and last term in 2010.

With Pimentel's election denied against the now re-elected Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri still pending in 2010, his sister Gwendolyn ran for the Senate under the Nacionalista Party ticket in 2007, but lost.

"The timeline of what degree of consanguinity or affinity should be covered by the definition of political dynasty is a matter of policy. We are made clear from degrees or lines of consanguinity. The point may already be settled because that would already involve first cousins," Pimentel said.

"I mean that [relationship] is no longer too close," he added.

Dynastic elections

The 2013 senatorial elections is shaping up to be a dynastic affair with the candidacies of re-electionist Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, Cagayan Rep. Jack Enrile, San Juan Rep. JV Ejercito and Binay family.

If they win, Ejercito will be sitting in the same Senate with his brother Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Jack Enrile, with his father Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, and Cayetano, with his niece, Sen. Pia Cayetano.

Cayetano's 40-year term-extension bill, if passed by the same Binay is the daughter of Vice President Jejomar Binay if she wins, her son, that would run three years beyond her father's vice presidency that would end in 2016.

Compared to the two-month hiatus bills currently pending in Congress, the anti-political dynasty law being pushed via people's initiative by the Nacionalista Party is tougher and more encompassing.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago filed Senate Bill No. 1618, numbered by several party-list House members, define political dynasties to include spouses of and persons related to an incumbent public official or a candidate up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, meaning his or his wife's parents, siblings, children, grandparents and grandchildren.

PH must speak loudest for 'climate justice'—NGO

By DJ Yap

AS ONE of the countries most vulnerable to global warming, the Philippines must speak with the loudest voice in demanding reparations from developed nations that contributed the most to climate change, according to an activist group.

The Philippines, according to Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC), "should be the noisiest" because it is a "frontline community" whose exposure to extreme weather events brought by climate change is inversely proportional to its share of greenhouse gas emissions.

'Climate justice'

This is the idea behind the concept called "climate justice," which seeks to award damages to nations that contribute the least to global warming but are receiving the brunt of its effects, FDC vice president Lidy Nacpil said at a briefing for reporters at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday.

Several studies have cited the Philippines as one of the most heavily affected by disasters due to its location in the Pacific Ring of Fire and the poor socioeconomic conditions in coastal communities in the country, Nacpil said.

She said many developed countries were now trying to escape from commitments they made in the past to mitigate climate change and to help developing countries adapt to it.

"In the last few years, developed countries have been trying to get away from their responsibility. They now make proposals like border measures, or exporting climate finance, or putting in money in climate finance in the form of loans," Nacpil said.

But even the government, through the Climate Change Commission, believes funds given by developed countries for climate adaptation measures should not be in the form of loans because "it's a duty that should be paid by the developed countries" for their carbon emissions, she said.

Adaptation, mitigation

Climate change funds go to two broad activities, with focuses on making communities resilient to the impacts of climate change, or mitigation, which concentrates on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Experts believe developing countries like the Philippines should direct their efforts more toward adaptation than mitigation because they have only minimal contribution to greenhouse gases that cause global warming, while mitigation efforts should be made by the countries who emit the most greenhouse gases.

Nacpil, however, said most of the climate funds the Philippines is getting is for mitigation for a number of reasons, reportedly the fact that the donors can secure financial incentives or "carbon credits" for the project.

Leverage

Theoretically, she added, developing countries like the Philippines already have the numbers to demand more climate change reparations from the United States and European Union countries.

"But the reason they bite is that developed countries have a lot of leverage. They use withheld money," Nacpil said.

Nacpil said, however, that she took it as a good sign that there was more representation from the Asia-Pacific region in the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which was recently capitalized to become the central agency to manage funds related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Asia-Pacific region is represented by China, India and Indonesia, with Indonesia having the Philippines as alternate.

Nacpil said the Philippines and Indonesia informally agreed to share the term, with the country holding the seat for one and a half years.

Palace blames LGUs for PH rating slide

By TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG has blamed local governments' antics for the two-notch drop to the country's global ranking to the ease of doing business, but doubted this would deter investors.

In the "Doing Business 2013" report by the World Bank and its investment arm, the International Finance Corp., in which the Philippines took slot from 136th to 138th, was referring to the difficulties of doing business in provinces, cities and municipal governments, said presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

"They tackled, for instance, construction permits, business permits. These are issues that we would do or promote at the local government level," Lacierda told a Palace briefing.

While some LGUs have gotten the zeal of good housekeeping, the others should view the drop in ranking as a signal to "improve their services," Lacierda said.

In the report by the IFC and IFC, the Philippines slid down to 138, from 136th in the previous survey, because of the lack of significant reforms to facilitate dealings with various government agencies.

The country registered slightly positive rankings in almost all categories related to the ease of doing business from June 2011 to June 2012, compared with the previous one-year period.

Lacierda said the national government should take the drop in ranking seriously.

However, Lacierda said he doubted that was still increasing with recent promises Ovation Hotels from the details of a spurse that would ensure hassle-free exchange of previously purchased tickets and/or new ones.

Reserve de Cuna, head of Live Nation, said he would make an official announcement in the next few days regarding this.

Gonzales assured all ticket-holders that they would be informed through the corresponding seats in the new venue.

"We have some adjustments to make," he admitted. "Since MOA will receive comparable renovated tickets in the new venue.

"Beginning Thursday, October 25th, there will be a special window at the Ticketnet Office located at the Smart Araneta Coliseum where all ticket-exchanges. Fans may exchange their tickets on the show date, but are recommended that they be done in advance, to avoid lengthy queues."

"If a refund is required due to the change in venue, these tickets must be refunded at SM Tickets no later than Sunday, Nov. 10, 2012."

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"We have some adjustments to make," he admitted. "Since the Arena has more premium seats in the lower box section and fewer seats in the general admission section."

For a clearer picture, Gonzales noted: The Arena has a seating capacity of 16,000 but 10,000 for concerts; the Smart Araneta Coliseum can accommodate more than 9,000 but can make room for more, should ticket sales require it.

To clarify transfer matters, the public is advised to call the Ticketnet accommodation or call SM Tickets. (tel. 470-2222) or Ticketnet (911-5555).

Abalos asks court to let him travel

By Nina Calleja

TWO months after gaining temporary liberty, former elections chair Benjamin Abalos wants to travel to Taiwan to meet prospective suppliers for his computerization project.

Abalos, who is out on bail for two election sabotage cases, has asked the Pasay regional trial court (RTC) to temporarily lift the hold departure order against him and allow him to travel outside the country for four days next month.

The election sabotage charges were filed late past in two branches of the Pasay RTC by the Commission on Elections against Abalos, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Jr. and former Maguindanao provincial elections supervisor Lintang Bedol. They were accused of allegedly conspiring to manipulate the results of the 2007 senatorial election in Sharif Kabunsuan and South Cotabato in favor of Arroyo's candidates.

"I have a dark skin because I already supervise my business. I have to personally meet the suppliers in Taiwan to save [the opposition] production cost. So by next month I will be [in the] public," he told reporters following a hearing on his motion to travel before Judge Augusto de la Cruz on Tuesday.

Abalos has been granted bail by the RTC in Cotabato after Judge Jocelyn Mupas, the two judges handling the electoral sabotage cases, on the ground that the evidence against him was not strong.

Promoters feel sting in change of concert venue

By Pocholo Concepcion

DOZENS of British singer-songwriter Sting's concert on Dec. 9 were "almost sold out" when the group was changed the venue from the Mall of Asia Arena (MOA) to the Smart Araneta Coliseum, according to an official of MOA Arena.

"Our fully sold out, but close" Ariel Iconomia, MOAA general manager, told the Business Inquirer by phone on Wednesday, adding that their main concern now was "to manage the expectations of the patrons who have already bought tickets."

Sting demanded a change of venue in response his sympathy for environmentalists protesting the "fracking" of mine caves in Negros City by SM, which also owns MOAA.

Fracking, however, said to be misunderstood.

Sting's official website, sting.com, posted this announcement on Oct. 19: "Fans who have previously purchased a reserved seat ticket will receive a reserved ticket for the new venue. Reserved seat tickets have been carefully reassigned so that fans who have a reserved ticket at the

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Junking seen in polls

By Gil C. Cabacungan

DESPITE the hype surrounding the formation of two coalition slates for next year's senatorial election, candidates admit that political junking will be prevalent.

"Due to confusion in the alignments and coalitions, junking of candidates will be inevitable," said Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, who is running for senator under the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA).

"Candidates will most likely look for themselves, especially in the LP (Liberal Party) coalition, which has two many parties involved that are not really loyal to each other," said Enrile.

Asked if he would campaign for Angara and that it was possible that some political parties might endorse their own federalism that might be different from the coalition slates.

Angara cited as an example the case of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), which joined the LP coalition (where a member, Sen. Loren Legarda, is one of the candidates) but has one of its members, Cagayan Rep. Jack Enrile, running under the UNA where his father, former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, is one of three primary canvass.

"It's our unanimous for candidates or officials at the local level to carry naked colors since it is very difficult to monitor," said Angara.

Nebrasonin, Rep. Nic Gonchalian, NPC spokesperson, said: "Our party leaders and members will discuss the matter accordingly now that the filing period has passed and we know where our candidates will stand. Consistently though, we are responsible for all our party candidates from the Senate down the ticket to municipal councilors. We will be supporting all our party candidates."

Jose Victor P. Paterno assumes his Ernst & Young award for applying sound management practices in critical areas of the company including finance, marketing, human resources and sales. PSE is the company behind the 1-Ehrens retail chain, which has been subsequently acquired by Philippine Seven Corporation. (By taking strategic risks, Mr. Paterno was able to reinvigorate the chain, which has now grown from 230 to over 170 outlets in just 7 years.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

14 Chinese found working in Cagayan mine site illegals—NBI

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation tagged as illegal aliens the 14 Chinese, who were arrested on Monday for conducting illegal mining in Aparri town.

Lawyer Hector Edward Geraldez, NBI director for Cagayan Valley, said the Chinese also failed to present permits to work at the mining site of Chinese firm Yingyi Mining Corp. in Dodan village in Aparri.

"Two of them claimed they were mere tourists when in fact, they were actually seen working when NBI agents raided the site," he told the Inquirer on Wednesday.

The 14 Chinese, including a woman, were arrested in a raid by NBI agents following a request by municipal Mine Mines and Geosciences Bureau (Boscon) Leo Amarteros, amid what he described as "a pile of complaints" over illegal mining by foreigner-owned in Cagayan.

After days of surveillance in September, the NBI confirmed reports that Yingyi and other Chinese firms continued operating in Aparri despite a cease-order issued by Gov. Alvaro Antonio in July, Geraldez said.

The NBI filed charges of violation of the Philippine Mining Act against employees Guo Jun Feng, Aidu Xu, Jiang Tao He, Bi-Ping Qing and Guo Gesong Feng; Wanlin Zhang, Jing Gan, Qiuang Gan, Xiaobi Yang, Tao Dang, Qing Bo Lu, De Hui Lei, Dang Ming and Yan Hai Wang.

They are detained at the NBI regional office while awaiting turnover to the Bureau of Immigration (BI).

BLACK SAND mining by Chinese operators in Cagayan.

The NBI also took into custody a 16-year-old Filipino boy who was caught working at the mine site.

Investigation showed that Yingyi operators dumps heavy to minerals processing permit. Its license only allowed it to extract sand and gravel.

Datu Geo Rivers, chief of the NBI Isabela district office and a member of the raiding team, said agents caught Yingyi's operations in full swing on Monday with six backhoes and six pay loaders at the site.

Up to 60 trucks load magnetite sand daily to Port Irene in Sta. Ana town, where the sand is loaded to ships bound for China.

He said the NBI is verifying reports and documents indicating some local officials were on the take from Dodan Yingyi.

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MGB starts enforcing order vs illegal mines in Zambo Sur

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Authorities on Tuesday started implementing the cease and desist order issued by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) against small-scale miners in Buug town in Zamboanga del Sur.

"It's a provincial government-initiated operation and supported by the police and military," said Maj. Gen. Rainier Cruz, head of the military's 1st Infantry Division.

The order included the dismantling of structures of illegal small-scale miners, specifically those involved in members of the Monte de Oro Small Scale Miners Association (Mosmia), Cruz told reporters.

Cruz said the soldiers were deployed to ensure the operations are peaceful.

Chief Supt. Napoleon Estilles, police chief for Western Mindanao, said at least 75 policemen were deployed to assist the MGB in implementing the cease and desist order.

But Estilles said the police forces would not participate in the actual demolition of structures.

"If they would demolish anything, police should not be part of it," Estilles said.

Cruz and Estilles said the presence of military and police forces are for peace and order purposes only.

Resident Alvin Lucero said private security guards, escorted by policemen, have started demolishing mining structures.

"Some machines were destroyed and some were confiscated," Lucero said.

Mayor Leonardo Babasa Jr. said there was "minor tension," like verbal exchanges between the demolition team members and mine workers.

Babasa also said a land mine exploded in Barangay Dipili, but no one was hurt.

Babasa said the demolition team also seized power generators and silver pieces of equipment from the mine sites.

"It's ongoing until now and I believe this will last for about five days," the mayor said.

Babasa said Mosmia-owned records and structures did not have permits to operate.

Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

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Bigger plot seen in Mindanao power woes

DAVAO CITY—An independent senatorial candidate pinned the blame on Mindanao's rumbling crisis in electricity on government's neglect of two hydropower facilities that he said are being left to rot to allow their sale at bargain prices.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño, who is running for senator as an independent candidate, said in a statement that the Agus-Pulangui Hydropower systems in Mindanao "are being left to rot because government wants to sell them at rock bottom prices.

"Government did not repair or rehabilitate the power plants because it planned to sell them anyway" he said.

Although additional electricity supply came in the way of diesel-fed power barges, Casiño said this was done at the expense of consumers.

He said the government sold power barges 117 and 118 to the power firm Therma Marine Inc. (TMI), owned by the Aboitiz family which was allowed to "drop existing supply contracts and jack up its prices beyond the reach of regular power distributors."

"It [problem caused by privatization] cannot be solved by more privatization and commercialization," he said.

"Government cannot escape from its obligation of providing cheap and stable power to the people of Mindanao," said Casiño.

He said another blow to consumers in Mindanao is looming as the Department of Energy plans to adopt a market for power supply in Mindanao that is patterned after the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM), where suppliers can sell electricity to bulk consumers, but at often higher costs.

"Why should consumers shoulder the amount while power companies prosper?" he said.

Instead of selling the Agus-Pulangui Hydropower facilities, Casiño said the government should rehabilitate and operate these at their full capacity. *Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao*

BAYAN MUNA Rep. Teddy Casiño, an independent senatorial candidate, during his rise to the Commission on Elections to file his certificate of candidacy.

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P-Noy party collapsing in Baguio City

BAGUIO CITY—The ruling Liberal Party (LP) ticket here has started to crumble even before the campaign period for the 2013 elections started.

Businessman Freddie Gonzales withdrew his candidacy for mayor on Tuesday to "allow for the unification of the LP which stunned foes, to submit another nominee to substitute in my place."

In a press conference on Tuesday, Leandro Yangot, a candidate for councilor of the LP said the party's national leaders should look into the problems of the LP slates here because members refused to comply with the composition of the ticket imposed last month after a series of consultations.

Yangot said Gonzales was poised to be replaced by Baguio Judge Edilberto Chavarell, who is scheduled to retire by the end of the year.

Election rules allow political parties to field substitute candidates between Oct. 5 and Dec. 21.

But Yangot said Chavarell, a former city councilor, dropped his bid for mayor this week because the candidate the LP chose to run for the mayor, lawyer Jose Molintas, filed his candidacy as mayor under the National Peoples Coalition (NPC).

LP members here said the party has become the official opposition coalition in Baguio and its members must be united to face the political machinery of Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Rep. Bernardo Vergara, who are running for reelection under the Nacionalista Party-Lakas-Kampi-Alliance.

Bugso Rep. Teodoro Bagatlie Jr., an LP official in the Cordillera, said the party's local officials have given Yoma a condition with NPC to allow Molintas to run under LP alongside its candidate for Baguio representative, Businessman Mariano Go.

Bagatlie confirmed that Chavarell would no longer run for mayor.

Molintas said he chose to run because he disagreed with the use of a proxy candidate while LP awaits Chavarell to retire from the judiciary. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Coal-fired power plants stir debate in Palawan

By Redempto D. Anda
Puerto Princesa City

A PLAN to set up two coal-fired power plants to meet the growing demand for electricity on the main island of Palawan has stirred fresh debate among environmentalists and other sectors in the province.

When technical guys (DKC) Holdings, through its subsidiary DKCI Power Inc., were the bidding for a 10-year, 45-megawatt supply contract with the Palawan Electric Cooperative (Palelco) in July, local and international environmental groups immediately began mapping out campaign plans to block the project.

"Coal is the dirtiest fuel around. There is no place for it in Palawan," the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (Elac) said in a formal opposition it filed against the project now in the preliminary stage of permitting.

Palawan is considered the country's Center for environmentalism. It is the only place in the country that has its own special law, the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act, which was passed by Congress and designed to preserve its biological diversity and ecological uniqueness.

The plants' proposed location—right across the protected area of Puna Inland in the town of Sofia, 81 kilometers south of Puerto Princesa City—has alarmed environmentalists. Puna has long been identified as one of the few remaining habitats of the endangered and endemic Palawan cockatoo, a bird species highly sought in the illegal pet trade.

In a larger context, environmental groups such as Greenpeace International are waging a "battle against coal plants. The Philippines has around 10 such plants, mostly located in Mindanao, and Greenpeace has raised its campaign at convincing the government to shut down all or most of the plants and replace them with healthier but cheaper renewable energy.

A rock, hard place

A fast rise in demand for electricity, triggered by a booming tourism trade, has pushed Palawan to set a one-year deadline to source around 23 MW of additional power, lest the province is plunged into a debilitating power crisis and reverse an unprecedented tourism-led growth.

The city government had already recognized that the situation was at hand. In July, it passed an ordinance placing the city in a state of power emergency and asking National Power Corp. to step in and provide a bridging power supply until a new provider was contracted and able to set up steam generators.

In the first instance when Palelco announced an open bidding for a 12-year supply contract, at least 10 independent power producers (IPP) expressed interest to bid. All but three ended up placing actual bids after most realized that the playing field was not conducive to competition as it allowed for coal-based technologies to compete with the more expensive hydro or diesel-based providers.

"There's no way we can compete with coal, price-wise, as we decided not to bid," said Lito Alcayaga, president of Palawan Power Generation Inc., which supplies the base load for the mainland grid using hydro-fed generators.

DMCI won largely because it offered the lowest bid of P9.38 per kilowatt hour against a bidpack P13.83/kWh submitted by diesel-based power providers.

The power supply agreement between Palelco and DMCI was signed on July 23. All that DMCI needed was to secure a special permit called the SEP clearance from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), the environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and endorsements from at least two local government units.

In the first public hearing conducted by the PCSD on Sept. 6, environmental groups led by the Kalikasan Foundation (which undertakes conservation projects on Rasa), Elac and the Palawan NGO Network Inc. registered their formal opposition.

"It is not that we don't want additional power. We recognize the need for that. But we oppose the establishment of a coal plant," lawyer Ednida Mayo-Anda, Elac executive director, told the PCSD.

Puno Gov. Abraham Kahlil Mitra indicated that he would not allow the coal plant project. "Palawan is known for environmental protection and coal plants are not fit into a protected development plans," he said in a text message to the Inquirer.

DMCI has shrugged off the opposition, stating that it is merely exercising its noncontrol obligation to put up the plant as specified in its bid and approved by Palawan. "If we are not issued a permit, there are other options available," said DMCI President Eleazar Dalisay, without going into details.

The reality was that renewable energy alternatives, such as hydro or biomass power, did not present themselves as readily available during the bidding period.

Langogan Power Corp., the sole renewable energy company that had initially participated in the prebidding conference, backed out during the bidding, saying the terms of reference of the project discouraged them from participating.

Robbins Batu, general manager of Palelco, said Langogan Power would only provide 6 MW "and it's not even reliable power because it relies on unpredictable run of river."

"Renewables are possible under the timeline prescribed in the bid. Whether coal is dirty or not, your choice is clear—power or no power," Dadlani said.

Alternatives

Batu pointed out that the cooperative was pushing for policies that would have renewable energy sources providing them the main source of electricity.

"We are awarding the circular to be issued by the Department of Energy so that a renewable energy supplier will take over our existing power supply agreements," she said.

She added that the cooperative would eventually source another or supply most of northern Palawan, including the municipalities of Taytay, San Vicente and El Nido, which were not yet connected to the mainland electricity grid.

Environmental groups offered a "talking point" with Elac—which is dead plants and forego its main plan to construct the coal facility in Nasa, while helping them develop a renewable energy power facility.

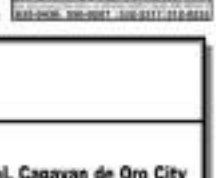
The sticky point in the debate revolved around the planned coal plant's carbon emissions, this being the main source of greenhouse gases that impacts on climate change.

"Carbon dioxide is the one emission that you can control in a coal plant. And this is important because Palawan is the environmental crown of the country," Bart Duff of the Palawan Chamber of Commerce said.

Environmentalists also scored DMCI for failing to present during the public hearings actual estimates of environmental damage that the plant would cause, including the disposal of ash that would accumulate during the plant's operation. The amount of ash was estimated by DMCI officials to reach as high as 600 tons a month.

They said they would bury accumulated ash in "silos" even as the Kanlu Foundation complained that there was not even a concrete plan where the waste material would be disposed.

DMCI insisted, however, that the proposed plant, to be built applying the latest "circulating fluidized bed" technology, had complied with the extensive cap prescribed in the country's Clean Air Act.



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Robinsons Supermarket

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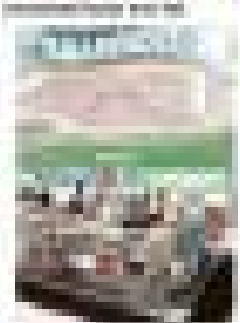

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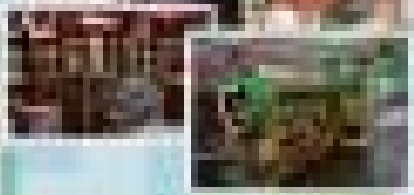

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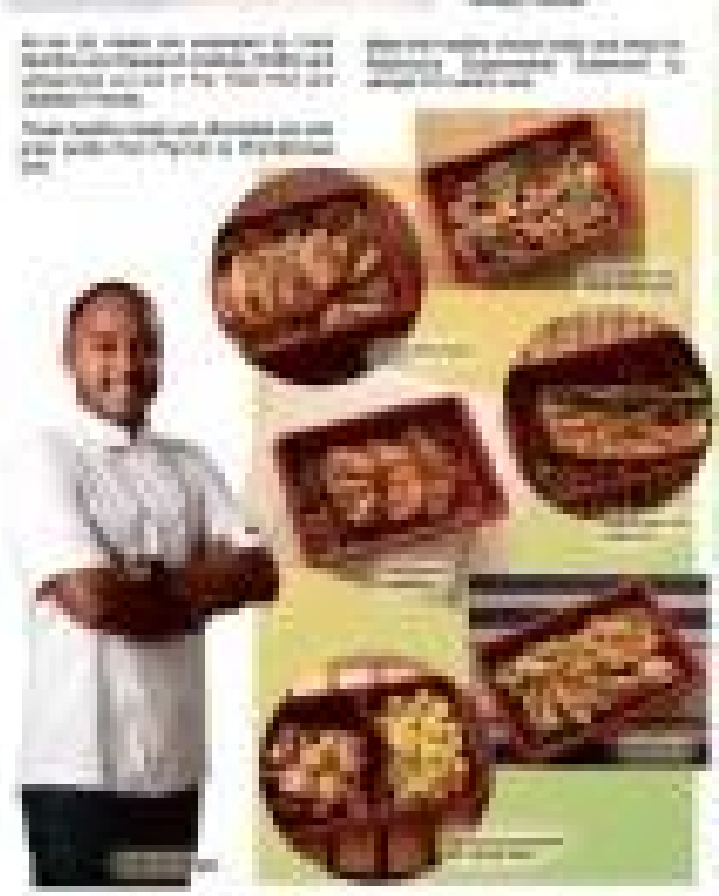

Healthy You : Cuisine the Wellness Habit

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Un-like

IT WAS inevitable. That the most controversial new legal concept of the day, electronic libel, would collide with arguably the most consequential economic debate of our time, the future of mining in the Philippines, makes the so-called "Cyber-Feeling" case even more fraught with meaning. But it was really only a matter of time before the nature of the nightmare spawned by the Cybercrime Prevention Act became visible to the ordinary eye.

EDITORIAL

We wish to be clear: All the parties behind the case filed against environmental activist Engelbert "Perling" Garcia of Gonzaga, Cagayan, have described the suit as mere libel—including Gonzaga Mayor Carlito Pentecostes Jr., who filed the complaint, and the National Bureau of Investigation, which arrested Garcia a week ago today. For some reason, even President Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda got into the act, clarifying the status of the case; perhaps because he was goaded by Ateneo de Manila University law professor Antonio Oposa Jr. on Twitter.

Ambiguous critics rose explaining the administration's policy on electronic libel, however, his statement could be read by some as implied support for an old-fashioned libel suit against Garcia.

Garcia, the president of the Gonzaga Alliance for Environmental Protection and Preservation, a leading source of opposition to small-scale magnetite sand mining in the province, herself described the case as part of a campaign of harassment directed at her.

But here's the rub: Because the subject of the libel suit is a Facebook post she wrote in April last year, Garcia's plight has attracted the attention not only of fellow environmental activists but also, and much more loudly, of critics of the new cybercrime law. The law, signed last month by President Aquino, extended the scope of the decades-old provisions on libel in the Revised Penal Code to online activity and raised the penalties by one degree; in a unanimous vote, the Supreme Court ruled to suspend the law for 120 days—a move widely seen as giving Congress the leeway it needed to remedy the law's obvious deficiencies without the embarrassment of an adverse ruling.

Hence the birth of Cyber-Feeling, both the name of the Facebook page put up by Garcia's supporters and also the neon shorthand for Garcia herself. Hence the cries of alarm in the opinion pages, about "warming shots" and "swords of Damocles." Hence the very real fear in online forums that Garcia is being made an example, a test case to probe the limits of popular outrage.

Memories of the misfortune that afflicted 16 communal farmers working for the Tagaytay Water District Hospital are still fresh; after "liking" a volunteer doctor's Facebook post that criticized the hospital last August, they were summarily fired. Garcia's case is the awful next step; she faces a criminal penalty, the possibility of imprisonment. On face, she already spent one day in jail, because she was able to post bail only the day after her arrest.)

The convoluted reasoning of a senator who voted for the cybercrime law shown on the screen to which members can turn knob-letter law into a living nightmare. Sen. Nenille Lacson pondered that the Garcia case would end up in the Supreme Court, because he said the prosecutors could not have used the cybercrime law retroactively. "When the Revised Penal Code was passed, unless there was an intendiary law that had amended certain provisions of the RPC . . . If none, the RPC has been there for some time and there was no Internet at that time."

If a two-term senator does not know for a fact that the Code's libel provisions were amended anew to include broadcasts but have not been amended again to include the Internet, what about us mere mortals? The ordinary citizen is at the mercy of any official who can speak legalese.

Certainly the Garcia case could be ultimately decided by the Supreme Court, but the chances are also high that it may not make it all the way to the tribunal. The Regional Trial Court hearing it may throw it out because the complainant is a public official who has a heavy burden to prove malice, or because the judge does not see the Code's libel provisions as extending to the Internet.

But the damage has been, it being, done. Garcia faces a year or two of legal uncertainties, recurring legal costs, restrictions from her advocacy. Pentecostes said all he wanted to do was teach her a lesson, in responsibility; but in fact it is an object lesson in plain harassment. The powers that be can reach us anywhere, even on Facebook.

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The 'indispensable nation'

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IN THAT final debate, which focused on foreign policy, US President Barack Obama called America "the indispensable nation," echoing a phrase coined during the Clinton years. The less eloquent Republican challenger, Mitt Romney, came up with an equally glowing portrayal of his country as "the hope of the earth."

Now, we know that America is a great nation. But hearing such songs of praise from its own politicians is disturbing. One can't help but be leaders of China or Russia getting away with extravagant self-descriptions like these without the world media commenting on their arrogance and implications.

But, amid the ear-shocking and frenzied post-debate analysis, the US media did not take notice. Perhaps that is because political debates everywhere (as opposed to the hard-talk parliament) assume when nations are in the middle of choosing their leaders. Still, one cannot but wonder if the national hubris—sometimes expressed as American exceptionalism—does not in fact constitute the most regrettable trait of US foreign policy. Indeed, on foreign policy questions, the two presidential contenders had so much in common that they could have played surrogate to one another without difficulty.

I am surprised that US analysts find it odd that Romney chose to agree with Obama on many points instead of sharply differentiating himself from his opponent. I think Romney would have had so far either on the left of Obama, or further to his right, to be able to anchor any substantive disagreement with him. Both positions would have been untenable. The first would have made him look like the "weak" Obama he caricatures, who goes around the world as an "apology tour." On the other hand, so-called hyperbolic right of Obama would have made him sound like George W. Bush, whose disastrous wars almost had bankrupted the US economy.

I would argue that this implied consensus, on the part of both Democrats and Republicans alike, even when they seem most upset, is what underpins the stability of American politics. The terms of this consensus were nowhere near enough to permit many variations in timing and approach. George W. Bush pushed it to its limit by advocating preemptive war. Now that it is out, the mandate to intervene that is subject to debate but only the form and time in which it is to be carried out. Within that narrow band, politicians are able to make positions that are very roughly designers as liberal or conservative.

In the last debate, there were moments when Mitt Romney seemed more progressive than Obama. It was he, not Obama, who warned, referring to the turmoil in the Middle East, that "we can't kill you very ass of this nation." It was also Romney who expressed dismay over the Muslim Brotherhood's victory in Egypt's elections following the ouster of the Mubarak regime, called for more active support for anti-autocrats.

On the other hand, Barack Obama has disappointed a lot of his supporters by steadily drifting to the right. He continued and even broadened executive he took during his first year in office. These initiatives, had they been pursued, would have led to a resetting of capitalism at home, and a redrawing of America's role in the world that is more consistent with the vision of a self-governing global community. Romney did not find much to disagree with in Obama's policies; elected because in truth the former just desires to any meaningful degree from what the Republicans themselves have espoused.

Both Obama and Romney said they would stand by Israel as America's most important traditional ally in the Middle East. Both maintained a hard punitive line toward Iran, vowing to put an end to its nuclear program. Both felt vindicated by the US-led Nato intervention in Libya that led to the overthrow and death of Gadhafi. Hints of unthinking military intervention in Syria, they each pledged to tighten the screws on the brutal Assad regime. They vied with one another in attacking China's verdict trade, currency, and investment practices, while holding up the hope that this country, to whom America owes so much money, would be a partner in the quest for global prosperity and peace. They both agreed on the use of drones, or unmanned aircraft, to launch strikes against supposed terrorist targets on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan, with or without the consent of the governments of these two countries. They were unified in the view that American leadership in the world rested on its military and technological supremacy, and that this was not sustainable without rapid economic recovery and nation-building at home.

Public watching all these presidential debates, I came away convinced more than ever that their function is primarily ideological rather than political. Despite the adversarial atmosphere surrounding them, these debates do not so much open up the political arena to contending voices as they provide America's elites the occasion to reaffirm their consensus on the parameters within which the country's reality and that of the world they live in.

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Voices

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S NICE to finally meet Miley Cyrus, right, ring Gil Semino, in concert from the future to the Antonia Comic Awards and Gil Regalo are more companions, Gil Regalo in particular being the object of his affectionate attention after it appeared Miley only knew Jacinto Jacinto. Jacinto more for expansion. The entertainment has called for closeout.

Awww is upbeat and says that although it is a corporate sibling of Gil, having the same owner, Miley Inc. it had nothing to do with the selection of the piano names. Understandably for Awww, but personally for Miley, the Filipinos and the world. Miley hasn't bought the ordinariness. Nature will have to fall in line, symbolism has gotten a little conflict in human hosts. It's nice how companies love for the Awww, the living concert, in every sense than have to do with money. I'm more determined to watch the concert, even if I have to borrow the binoculars Connor.

What can one say? As you see, so shall you reap. Or in this case, as you spread, so shall you plant.

Now a little remarkably, the one song that hits the nail on the head on what Gil Regalo has done is not anything Miley has composed, but one Jean Mitchell has. It's "Big Yellow Taxi," which Counting Crows made famous a few years ago. It's based on an experience Mitchell had, and used to encapsulate in a blissful spot in Hawaii until one day when she looked out of her hotel window and found the town that used to dot her line of sight gone, by its place was sprawling fat. One line actually flew to her head. Minus the exploiters, it was, "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

That's the first line of a song about the things we take for granted but find precious only after they're gone. The first that starts gone. "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot," with a pink hotel, a boutique and a swinging hot spot. "They took all the trees and put 'em in a tree museum." And they charged all the people a dollar and a half just to see 'em. Don't it always seem to go." That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. They paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

* * *

It is poignant. It is heroic, it is inspiring. That's the story of 14-year-old Malala Yousafzai. In case you haven't heard of her—what rock have you just crawled out of?—Malala is the 14-year-old Pakistani girl who was shot by the Taliban for championing women's education in her blog. The assassins sought her out in a school bus and shot her in the head. Miraculously she survived, and is now out of coma, though her doctors remain watchful for possible complications.

The seriousness of the deed shocked the world and drew swift and terrible condemnation. Not least from Muslim clerics who would not imagine how anyone could desecrate a God deserving of worship that would demand, and sustained, such slaughter. Malala herself has become something of a modern-day Anne Frank, despite having met with close public care, no thanks to the murderous intent of her attackers. For her plight, she has become a living emblematic of the Taliban. By her courage, she has shown the hollowness of a seemingly formidable and terrifying group.

Completely insanely, the people who shot Malala—the bullet entering her eyebrow and exiting her brain—have vowed to finish the job. They threw have been implied at from Islamabad to Istanbul, the media themselves vowing to like their act of human right and beating. Nothing has changed in the world, it seems, except that this was a group that, after trying to silence a child for speaking her mind, now has the gall to demand to be heard by the world.

What will they learn? When you try to kill a majority voice, it exists one even more loudly. It serves as a reign of a child telling the world in her own small way, in a way that has pricked the consciences of the king.

In a way that has stung the conscience of the world.

Aquino-MILF pact a curse on the nation

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

RATHER THAN a legacy of peace, President Aquino's pact with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front contained in the "framework agreement on the Bangsamoro" will be his curse on the nation. The consequences of the pact, unwound violence in Mindanao and if not overturned, will spread to Luzon, will outlive his term, and will be one of the biggest headaches of the next president.

We have to disabuse ourselves of the naive, sappy "give peace a chance" mentality that peace is worth almost any price. Following the lessons from Neville Chamberlain's 1938 Munich agreement with Adolf Hitler, in the 1973 Paris Peace Accords that led to the fall of Saigon, in the 1995 Dayton Agreements that enabled the Bosnian War but led to the "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo, all unrelated peace pacts in the world's history have often led to greater hostilities. Violence after failed peace pacts intensified in the parties from that they were betrayed, infuriating their fighters in frustration.

The MILF will unwind violence in Mindanao in a year's time, or even just a few months, that it was betrayed and bested by the Aquino administration. Why would this happen?

Unless Mr. Aquino becomes a dictator, there is an easy way to scuttle the agreement: his own staff—the MILF is still far-libeled or radically delayed by ten months because the Supreme Court and Congress.

The Supreme Court will almost certainly be asked to rule on the constitutionality of the Aquino-MILF agreement that was actually based on the previous administration's Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain.

Either Mr. Aquino didn't bother to read the Court's ruling on that case, or he is confident that with his hand-picked Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, it is now under his thumb that he can just order it to rule as he pleases. But the major reason why the Court ruled the MOA-AD unconstitutional applies to the Aquino-MILF pact, as constitutional expert Fr. Joaquin Bernas SJ (ex-professor Mary Poppe Sereno-alphabetical-first spitted-chairman. The major reason the Court ruled the MOA-AD unconstitutional is the government's unwillingness to amend the Constitution to accommodate the pact, which is beyond the executive branch's authority—is as well.

Mr. Aquino similarly promised that the Constitution will be amended "for the purpose of accommodating and reconciling in the Constitution the agreements of the Parties whenever necessary." He is deluded if he thinks that the MILF agreed to establish merely an "autonomous region" for the Bangsamoro, the only arrangement allowed under the Constitution. MILF Chief Murad Ebrahim was either so malicious or made a slip of the tongue when he declared in the signing ceremony that the pact will allow the MILF "to uphold [the Moro] homeland... and occupation and the reign of violence."

Deception? The republic's Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police are occupying, for the right reason, Tawi-tawi's homeland in this speech that the pact could not have been possible if they had not withstood "the all-out war in 2000, 2001 and 2008 waged by previous Philippine regimes on the MILF." The republic wasn't defending its territory and people, they did evil.

MILF guerillas now believe that Mr. Aquino agreed to the establishment of an MILF-controlled independent nation-state, even if just a weaker one, in the agreement's foundation. "In accordance with federalism" in the Philippines, I've had since its the MILF since 1996 when I was the first journalist to visit its main headquarters and interview their then Muslim Salamat. "We've won, there'll be a Bangsamoro state," they all said.

And even if the Supreme Court rules the agreement constitutional, it will be impossible for the Congress to enact the "Bangsamoro Basic Law" that is absolutely needed to implement the Aquino-MILF pact.

The pact's fatal flaw in fact is that the only body—Congress—that has the most crucial role in implementing the agreement had absolutely no role in negotiating it. Why would it support it? If Mr. Aquino would not pass the reproductive health bill—one of the most politically crucial bill on bill despite his popularity, do you think he could pass a bill—at the closing years of his regime—to create a Bangsamoro nation-state, which will be extremely unpopular and even unpopular to the many Muslims in Mindanao?

If there is no way for the agreement to be implemented, why did Mr. Aquino enter into it, and finish such a big battleship over it? If it isn't indeed stupidity or foolish, there is only one other way to interpret the agreement to provide breakthroughs: that which will soon be held accountable for its incompetence when the economy weakens and as his anti-corruption campaign is exposed as a political witch hunt.

It would be a tragedy, though, for the country that would outlive Mr. Aquino's term. When the Supreme Court or Congress throws the agreement in the dustbin, the MILF will claim that it was betrayed. It will call on tribes that, after all had been forced to remain armed to again wage war, with more ferocity this time.

• • •

At the signing of the MILF pact, Mr. Aquino thanked everybody from the Malaysian prime minister to the MILF leaders, but not Philippine governors "for making the agreement possible." What he did not thank, though, was the AFP, whose soldiers fought and died defending the republic's integrity against the Islamic state pact.

Mr. Aquino's failure to thank the military for the ceremony attended by over 500 MILF commanders. An army general in the field commented: "That omission struck deep in the heart of our soldiers. We've already grieved for the shortness in many, and the confidence for peace talks is pierced. Mr. Aquino praised the efforts of the MILF but not the AFP as if our soldiers were the aggressors, not the noble defenders of our land."

Email: rigtiglao.inquirer@gmail.com

What I want

I WANT Mother Nature to be destroyed and to be screwed. I want animals to rot in hell.

I want cigarette smoke to fill the lungs of every child. I want the polar ice caps to melt like ice cream under a hot mustard sun.

If it's not too much to ask, I'd also want to see typhoons and earthquakes consume the face of the earth, so as to make a plastered barbie out of Mother Nature.

Yes, must be thinking "What the hell is up with this guy? What's the matter with him? What kind of twisted mind would want such twisted to cross our world?" Well, if you're thinking that, then you're actually being hypocritical. Because in fact and oblivious to reality, your daily actions contribute to the fulfillment of those seemingly shocking declarations.

I will not go on and belabor about how we should treat our Earth, our people and all that. Almost everyone already learned about those preventive measures, we too hardheads can never seem to learn. Or maybe we simply, I am at least hoping that I can soften up your hard heads and nail the message home.

In case you haven't noticed, we aren't confronting those "save the environment" campaigns for ourselves, but for Our Future. We humans are just apparently so naïve that we only act upon things that affect us directly. We think the future is so distant, and as it's not our natural impulse to be mindful of its state. Let me remind you, though, that we are the ones responsible for paving the way to the future. As such, we must fight off those who pose a threat to Mother Nature.

Now, right? Wrong. How can one go about wreaking his own principal sin? How can Mr. Victor Kriakos mention the sawy hicsweaver? Even though technology has helped fulfill the wishes I stated earlier, technology has also uplifted our lives in ways we could never have imagined.

Yes, in itself technology has never been a bad thing; it's just the ingredients that do harm to our environment.

While the ever-rising levels of technology and amazing scientific advancements, you can't deny that life is now pretty well off and going good! And while it may seem as if technology will never stop evolving, much to the point of seemingly being too fast and acting to the waste affecting the world, that should not live. If evolution can't be stopped, what's to say that everything we have produce won't produce? There are ways by which technology can evolve in favor of the environment. Hybrid cars, windmills, and the utilization of renewable resources are just some of the few discovered ways that provide energy while minimizing waste.

Having said this, I more also say that the research studies on renewable energy are truly a fine behind—a livable paved road to a better future, a future wherein technology and Mother Nature work hand in hand.

I want Mother Nature to be lively and to be prosperous. I want animals to flourish and be healthy.

I want fresh air to fill the lungs of every child. I want Cellular air not to be filled with cancer causing agents.

If it's not too much to ask, I'd also want to see organic materials and renewable resources, so as to make a classy beauty out of Mother Nature.

You must be thinking, "What the hell is up with this guy? Who in their sane mind would NOT want such disturbance to cross our world?" Well, if you're thinking that, then you're probably holding with good heart on those statements. To hopeful foresight, your daily actions will contribute to the fulfillment of those wishes.

YOUNG BLOOD

Luis Miguel R. Kalaguyan

We want to know what the young people have to say about what's going on. Share your thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below—Ed.

Luis Miguel R. Kalaguyan, 18, is a high school junior at Ateneo de Manila University.

The horror of toxic mine spills

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IN THE 1980s, long before the deadly Marcopper mine spill shocked us with its horrors, I went to Mar Indiapan to document first-hand the hazard of gasification of the harvest of Marcopper's dumping, spreading on the sea and the beaches of fishing communities living near Calancan Bay.

Environmental activism was not very much in vogue then but the social action units of the Catholic Church were already in the forefront of those that called attention to the ecosystem destruction of the environment in the part of Luzon.

Marinduque Bishop Rafael Lim, then chair of the Luzon Secretariat of Social Action, stood tall. He was a fearless prelate who lived up to his name. But the country was under martial rule and unlike now, there was not much national outrage over local issues then.

I went for myself Marcopper's giant bituminous pipes jutting out from the sea and dumping, dumping, pumping out toxic mine byproducts as if the world would end tomorrow anyway. Day or night, one could see a deadly sheen on the surface of the water and imagine fish so nauseated in the depths of the sea. One could see beaches turned into sand-covered landscapes that crushed under the nonstop rain. One could see mangroves the food source of fishermen. One could see the imminent death of creation.

I wrote a long feature on Marinduque's woes in a church social action anniversary publication, with on the spot film sketches by an artist who had come with me, and made black-and-white photos that I took, one of them of a large pipe spewing toxic waste into the sea. I have a photo of myself standing on top of a huge pipe. I could not hide my distress.

I wrote then: "But the church leaders are not disheartened. In Marinduque Sunday in Sta. Cruz, village priests do not be discouraged by the situation. In a way it was too late since Marcopper Mining has already done so much harm. Worried Bishop Lim upheld Marcopper's petition to continue dumping its waste into Calancan Bay." Today this would have caused a global outcry.

"Father Mercado's letting Marcopper's 16 billion-ton waste disposal pipeline that juts out five kilometers from the shore to the sea. They ask that a lighthouse be built on the causeway to warn seafarers at night of the pipeline. Boats traverse this area at night as Darfiel is a fishing area. Fishermen still claim—but impatiently." All the fishermen could manage to plead for then was a lighthouse so they could fish somewhere else.

"The pipeline has caused floods due to the constriction of water in the bay where there are too many islands. People say that floods had been planned for the area but Marcopper opted for the cheaper pipeline. The tailings pit in Mt. Tapian has not been fully utilized when Marcopper discovered more copper ore underneath."

In 1989, the National Pollution Control Commission under the Cory Aquino administration at last banned waste wastes from being dumped into the bay. But in the 1980s, a huge unprecedented environmental disaster in Marinduque happened. Tailings containing not just heavy and carcinogenic chemicals but also toxic metals that poisoned everything in its way. Again, as if there were no tomorrow. The spillage caused material and investment losses of over $80 million. It was not the big mine, I could only begin with a cliché: "It was a disaster waiting to happen." As far as I know the Canadian mining company has not fully compensated the victims of the spillage.

Four years ago, in 2008, Environmentalists' attention is now trained on the toxic spillage from the Philex mines in the Cordillera. But little, it seems, has been heard of the government's conduct of subsidiary. Until if I may paraphrase my old friend, a radical cleanup of the mine spill is the filing of a libel suit by a government official against a Facebook user and entertaining subpoenas whose postings generated "likes." This, despite Malacañang's cool temperate's forthcoming order on the implementation of the controversial cybercrime law.

Outside of the Cordillera, again, it is the Church's social action arm that is leading the call for substantial. Last month a fact-finding team (FFT) spearheaded by the national Initiative Dialogue from Philex's Padcal mine in Benguet. Leading the team were the National Secretariat of Social Action (Nassa) of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and the Climate Change Commission (CCCP). With them were representatives of several civil society groups.

Something in the FFT's statement hit home: Through Philex, the country's largest mining company in terms of gold production, Benguet's mining contribution to the province's economy is presently amounting to P1 billion for "violating the Clean Water Act and its own environmental compliance certificate and losing P30 million per day from its suspension, the direct impact of the mining industry to the province's economy has not been given significant media attention."

But here's for bright spots. "Dr. Emelino C. Gadiano, CCEP resident scientist, said that the Philex Mines' tailings spillage is massive. The MGB estimates at 24.6 million cubic meters. This is 246 percent higher than the Marcopper accident in Boac, Marinduque, of 10 million cubic tons. Ten years after the accident the Boac River is still dead. Seven studies showed that coastal sediments near the river outflow contain high amount of copper, manganese, lead and zinc."

The FFT also briefed Philex' claims that the tailings are "leaking soluble." The tailspond at containment has, of tailing and mining ground as well as the surrounding areas in terms of food and water should favor Philex and local officials complicit.

There is so much more than what could be written here. You can download the full FFT report from the Nassa website: http://nassa.org.ph.

Email feedback to cerwapd@gmail.com or www.ceresdoyo.com

Health, revenue, fairness

(Concluded from last week)

as 10 promising farmers and workers to replace politicos, do we care more about someone's job that someone's life? One would certainly hope not. But that's what Philip Morris Fortune Tobacco Corp. (PMFTC) and the Philippine Tobacco Institute (PTI) are claiming. Their member jobs more important than life.

Despite that, the threat to jobs is nonexistent, anyway, it's a distraction by vested interests. Take tobacco-growing provinces. Combined, they pay taxes based on 1996 prices (with a billion inflation increase) but make 2012 profits. Is it any wonder they are fighting so vociferously to maintain the status quo, or does it? But they'll realize that the benefits would be enormous. Instead of P2 billion in taxes, plus in damages and claims workers will lose jobs as tobacco falls, but a third of the plant's production is for export, and with 100% international access, that has can easily be increased. So jobs don't have to be lost, and GDP increased.

As to tobacco farmers, they need to earn P74, 916 billion tobacco leaves, but after 1% combined with income tobacco in 2010, the price fell to P69,916. Now P59,916, agains that price was high in 2010. Tobacco farmers are not getting a fair, worldwide shortage of tobacco and an increase in cost of farm inputs. And when the market normal. And, the decline in price was expected. But it certainly doesn't look good. And it'll look more like the tobacco farmers' nightmare.

The PTI claims that the tobacco industry employs 840,166 farmers (it later said that number is farmers plus dependents). As Rissie Ahmad points out, given that tobacco farming covers 72,000 hectares, that would mean 12 farmers would share the P80,000 in annual revenues per hectare. That, of course, is absurd because that will just be about P10,000 for each farmer per year.

Government statistics say there are 54,000 tobacco farmers. Even if we assume the average size of four dependents to a family, that equates to 270,000 people (equal to three times of dead Filipinos). It has very little to do with the PTI claims. Where

Peter Wallace

did they get their number? Perhaps they'll tell us.

Look at some numbers. A study done in 2006 by the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance among farmers in North Luzon showed that with enough conscious and assistance from the government, farmers were willing to switch to other crops that yield higher returns than tobacco. The survey results showed that farmers of Virginia tobacco only earned 955,641/hectare. Meanwhile, those who planted bitter gourd and sweet potato earned P258,040/hectare and P158, 204/hectare, respectively.

The government will offer P4.7 billion (if the revised Nassa bill is passed) in supporting the farmers. This will be on top of the 15 percent of net collections on locally manufactured cigarette type cigarettes that go to cooperative agencies district, "production, secondary, processing) and infrastructure projects for farmers in tobacco-producing provinces (mandated by Republic Act 7171). Under RA 8240, provinces receive the lion's share of tobacco excise taxes. Of course of the incremental revenue collected from the excise tax on tobacco products depending on close level of tobacco leaf production. Then, tobacco farmers will be well protected.

Then there's the argument of farmers. Some quarters are saying that the Aboitiz bill favors imports over local production, that it threatens local production because of price-dampened premium brands—that the market for super-premium cigars is shrinking—but local manufacturers from the market. I believe these Are they saying local manufacturers produce an inferior product, or the customers that you have to support them? That goes against the government's primary policy—to create a level playing field, where tariffs are minimal, ideally nonexistent. And that is the trend. And anyway the are the ways to differentiate, not distortions in a free market.

As it now stands, the law is so grossly distorted to favor a couple of local manufacturers it's incredible it took this long to do something about it. If you were born in 1996, you pay one tax; if you were in born you pay another. Another is a tax based on a war of 1941. Lucky Strike (of British American Tobacco) pays P58.50 for its equivalent quality cigarette. Is that fair? And based on what? Purely the Duke of which can extend the market. If that's not unfair competition, then I don't know what is.

The revision released by Sen. Ralph Recto's committee would have also imposed a new distortion as it pushed for three tiers instead of only two. This would have allowed many high-priced brands to remain in the premium bracket. Thus, premium brands would have been taxed even lower than they are now, is that a way to discourage smoking? Is that a way to raise revenues?

There's another issue that should be raised: Should the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 still regulate or prohibit monopolies when the public interest so requires. Its combinations in restraint of trade or unfair competition shall be allowed." Philip Morris just warranted with Fortune Tobacco in 2010 in the purchase of RJR brands. If that's not a monopoly, I don't know what is. Why is it allowed? Why do those two companies violate what the Philippine people wanted when they voted their Constitution? They shouldn't need a law to force them to act with a sense of fairness.

This is a law that must be passed, preferably in its original Aboitiz form almost entirely as approved by the House. Only in that form will it save lives, raise revenues, and create a fair market.

Yes, there are other issues, and of what I've written before. But there is far too important an issue and it's now under threat by unscrupulous characters. The true situation must be exposed.

Heart and soul

Joan Miranda

THE THOUGHT that I'm getting closer to achieving my dream excites and scares me at the same time. Excited from my head from time to time: "What if I don't make it? What if I'm not good enough?"

I thing at the thought every time and tell myself that: "You won't give up. It's not going to be easy, you will probably get rejections, but you won't give up. You are going to educational! It takes to be good enough, and to make it out there."

It's easy for others to tell me that I can always try something else if I actually don't make it. What they don't understand is that I don't want anything else. Being part of the media is the only thing I see myself in the future. It's my passion, it's everything I am, and I can't imagine myself doing something else. I want a job that I'll never get tired of doing, a job that touches people's lives, a job with a purpose, a job that serves the country. And don't what the media do. The media can shape how people perceive something. How the media framed a report greatly affects the direction of the person who read/watched/listened to it. It's a great responsibility.

In my four years of study in the university, every single project that I and the other students had to do for the course had to pass those considerations: is it developmental? Who is it for? What are your objectives?

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A greater betrayal of PH

LETTERS

THIS REFERS to Ricardo Ramos' letter, where he said "Cory betrayed the Filipino people" because she pursued "a positive stance in the American position," as revealed in a book written by Dr. Abran Bengzon, then-health secretary and head of Philippine government negotiating panel (Inquirer, 10/6/'10).

It appears that then Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus was calling the shots, as seen by Jose D. Ingles, one of the greatest Filipino minds in foreign affairs. Manglapus' headlines campaign of "betrayal"—no reverse-the-aquoting story policy on the non-extension of US military bases and on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in the country—was shorn by the negotiations or agreements he made with US Under Secretary George Schultz in 1988, with special negotiator Richard Armitage in 1990-1991, and finally with Ambassador Frank Wisner in 1991 on the RP-US treaty of friendship, cooperation and security (Ingles, "RP-US Relations in transition," 1992).

As reviewed by Ingles, the Manglapus-Wisner treaty had several flaws, among which were: (a) nuclear weapons in the country violated the 1987 Constitution and international agreements, like the RPF (Free Pro-Mindanao Treaty) and the Asean Zopfree (zone of peace, freedom and neutrality); (b) no clause on the termination or denunciation of the treaty; (c) sovereignty on criminal jurisdiction unduly diminished; (d) other countries in the region involved, despite expression of joint commitments in some contexts.

President Cory Aquino confirmed the acts of Manglapus, but after ago. In fact, the strength, but naively, endorsed. She continued US military presence in this country, "for the protection not only of Philippine independence but also of the global order and morality."

But Filipino nationalists, like Lorenzo Tanada et al., insisted on the deliverance of the Filipino people from the American yoke, not as reminders that on Sept. 16, 1991, partners of the senate, headed by Jovito Salonga, rejected the Manglapus-Wisner treaty. However, soon after Cory left Malacañang, "ugly Americans" doggedly pursued the US agenda and got to place the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) in collaboration with Filipino foreign Dino in all levels of the government—the executive (the president and his foreign secretary), the Senate and the Supreme Court.

The process, concurring with a respected political analyst, subsisted that under the VFA, which allows unhampered access of US military through the Balikatan exercises for example) to our territory (airports, seaports, airbases, stations), the entire archipelago has become a vast, big Oil military base. Indeed, the VFA is a bigger betrayal than the Military Bases Agreement (MBA), especially now with the US policy decision that would create or augment around the Philippines, Australia and the United States thousands of US personnel withdrawn from Okinawa—as part of the US forward defense system in Asia and the Pacific.

—NELSON D. LAVIÑA,
ambassador (ret.),
cnn@i2i.net.ph

True Muslims urged call to for tolerance, sobriety

ALLOW ME to react to the letter of Amir Hamzad of Digos City. She lambed against the senseless burning of religious hatred toward Muslims by the showing of the offensive film, "Innocence of Muslims" in the University of the Philippines. She asked, "Where do we draw the line between freedom and responsibility?" (Inquirer, 10/2/'12)

There has always been a line, but more often than not it has been blurred, in matters of religion, traditionally. It is blasphemy. But then again, who is to say? One's heresy is another's creed. The statement "I do not agree with what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it," spoken centuries ago, has continued to galvanize nations to this day.

When the movie "The Da Vinci Code" was shown years ago, there was an upheaval, a worldwide outrage among Christians who thought it insulted them and attacked their faith in Jesus Christ. But no one went for riot or homicidal. In time, the controversy died down and hardly anyone concerned anymore what the hoopla was all about.

Now, we are reading of Muslims running amuck around the world because they felt the amateurish film insulted them and attacked the prophet Muhammad. In time, too, we will all forget about that pile of dreck, just as we have already consigned to oblivion all the lies about Salman Rushdie. But who can bring back the lives of innocent people lost in the wake of their angry protests?

To be sure, the "Da Vinci Code" was eventually dismissed as fictional; the "Innocence of Muslims" is already being laughed out loud as insanely absurd. But see the difference?

Rather than getting all riled up over that stupid film that no one takes seriously anyway, the Muslims should call for tolerance and sobriety among their hotheaded brothers in many parts of the world!

—JEFFREY L. MORANTE,
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Militant groups seek Akbayan disqualification

By Jaralyn B. Uy

BUKIDNON – Akbayan is already a party in power and that it currently enjoys government support and funding, militant sectoral groups said in addition to its earlier filed petition for disqualification from the party-list elections next year.

They said Akbayan should not need to become a marginalized party because many of its members had become appointees of President Aquino and because it had gained unprecedented access over other party-list groups due to the government's "total control" over its campaign.

"The grievance wherein a party-list group has constituted itself from being a marginalized and underrepresented political entity to one that is well-entrenched and well-connected to the present administration, is a new development in the Philippine party-list system," said the petition.

It was the second formal complaint to be filed against Akbayan in the Comelec.

Among the petitioners were poll watchdog Kontra Daya's Fr. Joe Dizon, Archbishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz, Bayan's secretary general Renato Reyes Jr., present leader Nadir Pihan of Bukidnon Lumad's Ugnayan ng Kilusanggawa sa Agrikultura, Prim Gonzalez of Bendahulan (Southern Tagalog and Ilocano) regional Gloria Bella in Bahol Bayanihan.

The first petition was lodged by Anakbayan and the Motherand Union of Bicolnon of the Philippines early this month.

In an interview with reporters yesterday, Reyes said the petition was easier to disqualify Akbayan from the 2013 elections.

Reyes said the groups filed the petition pursuant to a provision in Comelec Resolution No. 8679 allowing the filing of a verified complaint for the removal, recall or disqualification of a party-list group or organization.

"There are many parties and groups, out of power, really marginalized and underrepresented that are qualified to represent these sectors," he added.

High positions

In the petition, the complainants identified at least nine Akbayan members and personalities occupying high appointive positions in the Aquino administration.

The nine are Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Ronald Llamas; Undersecretary Rafael Mariano of Hacienda Luisita

P-Noy falls ill, cuts short dinner with PM Gillard

By Michael Lim Ubac

CANBERRA, Australia—President Aquino was taken ill, prompting him to cut short his attendance at the official dinner hosted by Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on Tuesday (Wednesday in the Philippines).

Held at the private dining room of Parliament House, the dinner was attended by the Australian ruling class—top officials of the Gillard Cabinet, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, diplomats, military officials and other invited guests.

A concerned Gillard then dispensed with the formalities and promptly after Mr. Aquino complained that he was not feeling well.

"Can I acknowledge Nina Einstein here, Mr President. Thank you for joining us with your presence this evening. We are very, very disappointed that you had become unwell, but we wish you a very speedy recovery and a good night's rest here in Australia," said Gillard, who delivered her speech ahead of the President.

Warming up

"So, the President—and I have warned up—I have remarked, and if all members of this delegation could note this that he should be cured from any paperwork during the course of this evening," she said to chuckles from the banquet guests.

"I know what it's like to be chased around with paperwork when you're feeling unwell and I'm sure it's going to aid his recovery if he is left undisturbed tonight, which is my way of acknowledging our other honored guests present," she added.

Mr. Aquino spoke briefly but left soon after his speech without touching his food.

Escorted by Gillard

On instructions from the prime minister, the guests were ahead with the traditional toast usually led by heads of state or government, and patronage of a three-course meal, with a pan fried snapper as the main course.

Sought for comment, Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang confirmed that Mr. Aquino, who earlier flewto a state visit to New Zealand, was sick.

"Yes, a bit, that he should be better tomorrow," Carandang said.

Asked if he too was running a cold or flu, Carandang said: "No. He's fine. He finished all his dishes today."

PRESIDENT Aquino reviews the honor guard during the ceremonial welcome at the Lakeside Lawn of the Government House on Wednesday.

Australia backs code of conduct in West Philippine Sea

From page A1

territories with China.

During a bilateral meeting with Mr. Aquino on Tuesday in Wellington, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key voiced the same position, emphasizing that his country had always favored peaceful means to settle disputes between nations.

"Obviously peace and stability in the South China Sea is critical because this is the fastest growing part of the world and we want to see them growth [there]," Key told reporters at a briefing.

Code discussed

Following the bilateral meeting here in Canberra, PhilippineAmbassador to Australia Belen Anota said the territorial dispute of the Philippines with China in the West Philippine Sea had been discussed during the bilateral meeting with the Australian prime minister and her top officials.

"Australia's positions on the West Philippine Sea are very clear, and we understand them. And Australia also fully understands the Philippine position. So there is, I would say, harmony and understanding," Anota said.

Summarizing the position of Australia, Anota said Australia would not take sides in the territorial disputes between Manila and Beijing.

But she said Australia supported "the idea of freedom of navigation in the West Philippine Sea or South China Sea," lessening upon the use or threat of force to solve disputes and was looking for solution that "must be rules-based, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea."

"Both sides, of course, want to see early conclusion of the code of conduct," Anota said.

US support

The Philippines and Vietnam have been pushing for the adoption of a code of conduct in the South Philippine Sea through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

The United States supports the Philippines and Vietnam in pressing for a code of conduct to maintain stability and freedom of navigation in the West Philippine Sea, home to sea lanes where half of global cargo moves and where islands, reefs and atolls are believed to be sitting on vast deposits of oil and gas.

Without a code of conduct, any of the claimants could test exploit resources in the disputed waters.

Anota said the code of conduct was not a solely Philippine initiative.

"We do not claim to the principles that are involved in the code of conduct," she said. "But Australia strongly supports Asean's view, which includes the Philippines, of course, that the code of conduct be concluded as soon as possible."

Bangsamoro deal

Anota said the code of conduct was discussed as both the bilateral and the expanded bilateral meetings.

In a joint statement issued after their bilateral meeting, Gillard congratulated President Aquino on the signing on Oct. 15 of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, a new autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao that the Aquino administration and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) hope to establish by 2016.

"Both leaders hoped the agreement would provide a basis for genuine, lasting peace in Mindanao. They agreed that it would now be important for the agreement to be fully implemented, resulting in significant improvements in the economy and prosperity of communities across the southern Philippines," the statement said.

Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs Bob Carr announced the position of the Gillard government, telling an expanded bilateral that the framework agreement was a "role model" for ending secessionist struggles in the region, according to Communication Secretary Ricky Carandang.

Carandang said Anota joined the expanded bilateral meeting, where senior members of the cabinets of both the Philippines and Australia had a wide-ranging discussions of issues of mutual concern to each as defense, maritime security, trade, tourism and environment affairs.

"Absolutely, it was discussed and they were very excited that the Philippine government could reach such a major step in forging something that could be a comprehensive, lasting peace," Carandang told reporters.

Referring to the numerous developmental and aid projects of Australia, half of which are found in Mindanao, Carandang said:

Supportive of deal

"One of the reasons why they find put so much money into that area is they want to see that it's successful, so they were really all praise for our efforts to achieve peace, particularly the framework agreement, and they're very supportive of the framework agreement and the work that has to be done," Carandang said.

Australia did not promise new projects or set "new amounts" for aid flowing into war-torn provinces in Mindanao.

"But they have a number of projects are continuing. They assured very happy with the pace of the projects they are funding," said Carandang.

Carandang said the accord was a "big issue" for Australia and other regional allies, and he "admits the Philippines was receiving praise all over the world."

In response to Gillard, the President admitted that much work had to be done in the implementation stage of the framework agreement, Anota said.

PRESIDENT Aquino tours the galleries of the Australian War Memorial on Wednesday during his state visit to Australia. The Australian War Memorial combines a shrine, a world-class museum and an extensive archive.

PRESIDENT Aquino greets Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia Quentin Bryce as the Government House on Wednesday.

Burning issues

The Bangsamoro accord, the proposal on bottlenecking agricultural and diversified high-end exports to Australia, the ratification of the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA) and the new mining policy under Executive Order No. 79, among other things, were also discussed by both sides.

This was followed by the signing of an air services agreement with Australia, which is a revision of the existing accord.

The details of the new air services agreement have not been made public.

Australian officials also thanked the Philippines for the ratification of the SOVFA, but this was discussed in general terms because details of the joint exercises and training activities are still currently being discussed visit to Manila between officials of both countries, Anota said.

Mango export

The Philippines also pushed for increasing the volume of agricultural and diversified high-end exports to Australia.

"Gilliard then announced a review agreement to extend Australian market access for Philippine mangoes," the joint statement said.

"This will be welcomed equally by Australian consumers and mango growers in the Philippines," it said.

Welcome ceremony

President Aquino's official visit to Australia began Wednesday with a ceremonial welcome before noon at the Government House, where he was greeted with a 21 gun salute as he shook hands with the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Quentin Bryce, and her husband, Michael Bryce.

Australian protocol officers have said that this was the first time a visiting head of state was accorded a ceremonial welcome right on the lawn of Government House, which serves as the office of the governor general who is the official representative of the Queen Elizabeth II.

The queen is the head of state of Australia, as Australia is a member of the British Commonwealth.

The governor general hosted a state luncheon in honor of Mr. Aquino in the dining room of the Government House, three hours ahead of the President's meeting with Gillard at the Parliament House.

Mr. Aquino then laid a wreath at the Australian War Memorial gallery where sailors were gathered before sitting down for an interview with an Australian TV journalist.

State dinner

A state dinner hosted by Gillard in his honor ended the day's official engagements, but the President had to leave earlier because he said he was not feeling well. (See story on this page.)

He said this was the case of "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

He and Gillard left after delivering their respective speeches, leaving the guests to partake of a three-course meal.

In Gov. Baby Pineda's face, Mar orders stop to 'jueteng'

From page A1

tackle in Pampanga.

Roxas gave the order during the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) meeting that was attended by Gov. Lilia "Baby" Pineda.

Bong Pineda had been investigated by the Senate for allegedly running jueteng in Pampanga and other provinces in Central Luzon.

"My security shoppers, 'who are my enemies, please! Here on paper [where the number pairs that they bet on were written], to show that jueteng is still being played here," Roxas said.

He raised the matter after Pineda reported that the cooperation of the police and local and provincial governments had brought down the number of crimes incidents in Pampanga.

Pineda spoke after Nueva Ecija Gov. Aurelio Umali reported on the province's peace and order situation.

Former Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, a candidate of the administration's Liberal Party (LP) who will face Pineda in the 2013 election for governor, accompanied Pineda in the RPOC meeting.

Panlilio, a priest, was quiet during the meeting and was a rest away from Roxas.

Senior Supt. PNP Raphael Ignacio, Pampanga police director, denied reports that jueteng continued to be played in the province.

Wilben Chief Supt. Edgardo Laban, Central Luzon police director, tried to explain the status of the government-sanctioned Small Town Lottery (STL) and its differences from illegal numbers games.

Pineda did not allow the meeting of the Department of the Interior and Local Government's seat of governance and cash incentives to local and provincial governments.

Interviewed after the RPOC meeting, Pagkalinawan showed a copy of Joint Memorandum Circular Governor Emerson Oliver Pineda (Office: PCSO), which owns the STL franchise, to Ellen Tordesillas, president of Sunstar, the STL agent corporation in Pampanga.

Signed by PCSO general manager Jose Ferdinand Rojas II, the Sept. 14, 2012 letter informed Ocier that the police had been deputized to arrest jueteng employees and financiers.

Pagkalinawan said the illegal numbers game discovered in Pampanga was the card game sabong in Pulac Town.

He could not say if Roxas' interview with Pineda left with STL employees, "that we can verify if they are legitimate STL employees because we have a list of those," he said.

Later at a press briefing, Roxas said he had "independently verified" the existence of jueteng in Pampanga. "I expect this to be stopped," he said.

Asked why Panlilio, LP candidate for governor, was with him at the RPOC meeting, Roxas said the governor was one of his friends in Pampanga.

"I am one of those who believe in the leadership of Among Ed," said Roxas, LP president on hand.

ROXAS

PINEDA

Manila Archbishop Tagle now a cardinal

From page A1

member of the gathering and were appointed blue ribbon prelate of the consistories that will craft its final message.

Tagle and Linguaza-Dagupan Archbishop Antonio Villegas have caught the attention of international electoral watchers for their pleas at the synod for a more evangelizing Church, the Church to be humble if it were to win new converts.

Writing on the National Catholic Reporter website, renowned senior CNN Vatican analyst John Allen Jr. said the three votaries of hope and Filipino on Oct. 8 were at that time among the "most compact as well as the most diminutive" among those made by Church leaders attending the synod.

Tagle urged the Church to "listen humbly to the world" and "discover the power of silence."

Villegas called on the Catholic hierarchy to "shun arrogance, hypocrisy and bigotry" and "banish the errant among us instead of covering up our very weakness."

"The Church must learn humility from Jesus. God's power and might appear to be self-emptying of the Son, in the love that is proclaimed but truly saves because it is emptied of self for the sake of others," Tagle said in his intervention.

The 55-year-old prelate said the Church was called "to follow Jesus' respect for every human person," adding that Jesus had defended the dignity of all people, "to point out those neglected and rejected by the world."

"The Church must discover the power of silence. Confronted with the sorrows, doubts and uncertainties of people, she cannot pretend to give easy solutions. In Jesus, silence becomes the way of attentive listening, compassion and prayer. It is the way in souls," Tagle said.

"The seemingly indifferent and aimless societies of our time are earnestly looking for God. The Church's humility, respectfulness and silence might somehow gradually lead them to God in Jesus. The world today delights in a simple witness to Jesus—meek and humble of heart," he added.

Allen quoted Irish theologian Jamison Conaway who is among the experts who helped Tagle in serving that Tagle's intervention "had a certain resonance" in the synod hall, "meaning people were favorably taken by it."

Allen, who had just tagged the Manila archbishop as a possible papal contender, said Tagle was "quickly considered a rising star among the Asian bishops."

Allen also noted the equally powerful plea for humility from Villegas, a protégé of the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"Why is there a rising status of anti-clericalism, a surge of unpopularity, a public indifference toward the Church in some parts of the world necessitating a new wave of evangelization programs?" Villegas asked.

"The new evangelization calls for conversion. The Gospel cannot throw in pride. Where pride seeps into the heart of the Church, the Gospel proclamation is harmed. The task of new evangelization must begin with a deep sense of awe and reverence for human freedom," he said.

Tagle said the Church's missionary efforts had been "hurt and sometimes to be impeded by the arrogance of its messengers."

"The heavenly must shun arrogance, hypocrisy and bigotry. We must banish the errant among us instead of covering up our very mistakes," Villegas said.

Writing in his blog, "Whispers in the Loggia," Jesuit-run Church studies theory Fr. Reinhard Hütter described Villegas' intervention as a "grenade in the aula" while describing that Tagle was "a golden child" whom Benedict named last year as head of the 6000-CEO-primed see.

"With some 75 million faithful, the Filipino Church is even larger than its US counterpart, and economically more influential on the national stage," said Hütter, who has served as a Church analyst for the New York Times, the Washington Post, BBC, and other media outlets.

"But while the prior generation of its leadership literally spoke Pope's Devotion," reviewer Bulletin journalist Sunshine Maginez noted that Tagle was among those who were named by Benedict to join the synod.

Maginez revealed last year that were notebooks and handouts at the Archdiocesan Congregation of Pontifical Missionary Childhood Tagle's line to the "liberal" Catholic group of schools known as the "School of Bologna" was not included in his life since they reviewed his candidacy for the See of Manila.

However, Tagle has since said that he does not subscribe to the belief that the Second Vatican Council was a "rupture" to Catholic traditions, a view attributed to the School of Bologna. This view has been soundly criticized by conservative Catholics, including Benedict.

("Tagle) ... at the previous two synods, which he was bishop of Imus, had been elected by his confreres, while now it was the Pope who had to fish him out again," Maginez wrote in his blog www.whispersinthecorridors.it

IN THE KNOW

ARCHBISHOP Luis Antonio Tagle, 53, took over the Archdiocese of Manila from Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales in October last year.

A former member of a theological body once headed by the Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger before he became Pope Benedict XVI, Tagle served as Imus bishop before becoming the 32nd archbishop of Manila.

With his appointment, Tagle became the youngest Manila archbishop after the 1901-born Jaime Michael D'Ochoa Sr. who was appointed in 1961.

Tagle was ordained a priest in 1982 and appointed Imus bishop in 2001.

Tagle earned his MA Philosophy degree from Ateneo de Manila University and his Imus Seminary in 1982.

He then took up graduate studies in Theology at the Loyola School of Theology and San Jose Seminary.

From 1985 to 1992, Tagle was sent for further studies to the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., where he earned his doctorate in sacred theology.

Tagle served as member of the Vatican-national Theological Commission while it was presided over by Cardinal Ratzinger, who later became Pope Benedict XVI. Tagle served as a Manila guest of at least two ordinary synods at the Vatican.

In 2002, Tagle was appointed apostolic visitator of seminaries in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

He was also appointed the chairmanship of the Philippine Peace Community Foundation.

He is also currently the chair of the Commission on Doctrine of the Faith of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

He was born in Manila on June 21, 1957.

PH cyberworld erupts with joy over Tagle elevation

FILIPINOS netizens took to various social networking sites yesterday to express happiness over the news that Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle had been named as one of the Church's new cardinals.

On Facebook, a page called "1 Million Kabalikong Pinoy," which has over 333,000 likes, posted a photo of Tagle with the caption "Time Cover: Not 9th but a new Filipino Prince of the Church!"

The post was liked by over 800 people and was shared around 237 times less than an hour after the photo was posted.

"Thanks be to God. Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle is a wonderful creature of Christ and the Catholic faith," Jessy Lee said.

Arnel Tampoc wrote: "I am very proud of my theology professor. You deserve it, Bishop Chito. May this blessing give you more opportunities to serve God, His church and his people. We are always one with you in our prayers. Congrats and God bless!"

Others, like Louie Julian, speculated that Tagle might become Pope someday.

"I smell in Asian Pope," Julian wrote, complete with a smiley face.

Candice Gomez said: "A new name—St. Pedro Labayagod: a new cardinal, Cardinal elect Luis Antonio Tagle; all in the Year of Faith." Sebastei Quesada and Rea Perez, Inquirer Research

From page A1

every news today so an effect of the approaching storm, the weather bureau said.

It will continue moving west-northwest and should be 660 km west of Manila, outside the Philippine area of responsibility by Saturday morning.

Ofel's heavy rain and strong winds that down schools and cut off disaster-response preparations in areas on its path and grounded sea transport in Eastern Visayas, Bicol, Central and Western Visayas, stranding thousands of travelers.

Stormy weather caused by Ofel also forced the cancellation of flights between Manila and some cities in the Visayas and Mindanao.

The storm lingered directly over Tacloban City in Leyte province at 10 a.m. that moved seen northwest toward the Visayas, according to Pagasa.

The weather bureau raised storm signals in 27 provinces in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao as Ofel moved slowly over Eastern Visayas on its way to the center of the country.

In its afternoon report, Pagasa said Ofel accelerated and was moving over Leyte province at 4 p.m., the eye of the storm was in the vicinity of Ormoc City, the weather bureau said.

Storm signals up

Signal No. 2 was raised over Ofel's forecast path in Luzon: Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran Island, Camarines and Batanes Islands in Cebu, Capiz, Aklan, including Boracay Island, northern Cebu and northern Negros in the Visayas, and Dinagat Island in Mindanao.

Signal No. 1 was hoisted in Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, Burias Island in Bicol; Southern Quezon, Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, northern Palawan including Puerto Princesa City, Calamian Group of Islands and Cuyo Island in Palawan, and Romblon.

"Storms that make landfall will usually weaken over a land mass and sometimes they dissipate, but because the Visayas is a group of islands, we don't expect that Ofel will decrease its strength," said Pagasa forecaster Joel Lelis.

High-pressure area

Lelis added that Ofel appeared to be interacting with a high pressure area in the West Philippine Sea. "We will have to observe if it will change direction," he said.

Ofel had a diameter of 900 kilometers. It is generating moderate to intense rain, at 3 cms to 20 cms per hour within the range, Pagasa said.

The weather bureau warned residents in low-lying and mountainous areas under storm signals to stay on guard against possible flash floods and landslides.

Pagasa showed extremely to moderate seas under Signal No. 2 is possible storm surges

The bureau advised fishermen and operators of small seacraft in southern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao not to venture out to sea due to the combined effect of Ofel and the northeast monsoon.

Sailings, flights stopped

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said more than 6,000 travelers in Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao were stranded yesterday after the Coast Guard grounded all seagoing vessels.

As of noon yesterday, the NDRRMC said 1,345 travelers were stranded at Coast Guard Port 1 in Manila.

Bicol was also grounded at ports in Southern Leyte, Cebu, Bohol, Dumaguete, Cagayan de Oro, Surigao and Butuan.

More than 100 vessels were grounded in various ports in the Visayas yesterday, stranding more than 4,000 travelers.

Civil defense officials had not received reports of flooding or of fatalities or injuries.

The Coast Guard grounded 173 sailing-capacitance, 57 other vessels and 20 motorboats.

Only Armed Public, Coast Guard spokesperson said all Coast Guard units in areas on Ofel's path had been placed on heightened alert to ensure roads' departures as Ofel neared the country.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council had directed the Coast Guard to stop fishermen from going to sea until the storm had blown out of the country.

Stormy weather forced Cebu Pacific Air and its Philippines-to-Philippines flights to the Visayas and Mindanao.

Ofel dumped heavy rains in Surigao del Sur, closing down schools and seaports. PNA reports from Bilkis Utoto, Jerome Aning and Dino Santos.

Inquirer Research Bureau: Jhanet Napallacan, Jazel Arnaiz, Joey Gudoria, Dexter Barjon Jr. and Carlos Gomez, Inquirer Visayas; and Dimitri V. Antonio RD, Franklin A. Caligpal, Tet Pandiscio and Precious Lim, Inquirer Mindanao

Tablet war: Apple jumps gun on rivals with iPad mini

From page A1

first Apple product not bearing the thumbprint of Apple's late cofounder Steve Jobs, who described small tablets as "DOA."

Jobs publicly declared seven inches "too little, too [dead on arrival]" that was unless they included touchpens, "in that the user can scroll down their fingers to around the quarter of the present size."

Industry analysts noted that given his oft-cheery tactics, the decision could have been a nine by jobs to discourage competitors while Apple had a smaller version of the iPad on the drawing board.

The iPad mini's touchscreen measures 7.9 inches diagonally compared to the 9.7 inches on the original iPad.

"Very cool"

A 16-gigabyte version of the iPad mini with Wi-Fi connectivity is $329, while a 16GB model with both Wi-Fi and cellular capability costs $459.

The top-of-the-line 64GB iPad mini with Wi-Fi and cellular connectivity will sell for $629. Like later versions of the original iPad, the new Apple tablet also features rear and front-facing cameras.

"What is not to cool," Cook said of the iPad mini.

People can begin preordering the iPad mini on Oct. 26 and Wi-Fi versions were set to begin shipping on Nov. 2 to about three dozen countries in Asia and Europe in addition to the United States.

Schiller said the iPad mini weighed 0.68 pounds, less than half the original, and is 7.2mm thick—thinner than a pencil.

Apple also unveiled a fourth generation of the original iPad for the same starting price of $499 for a 16GB model with Wi-Fi connectivity.

Cook said Apple sold over 100 million iPads in two and a half years.

He added that more than 275,000 applications were now available for the iPad in Apple's App Store and that customers had downloaded a total of more than 35 billion apps.

Apple saw the tablets computers market debut with the first iPad in early 2010 and made with its 9.7 inch screen while rivals introduced lower-price tablets with screens closer to seven inches.

APPLE CEO Tim Cook introduces the new iPad mini during an Apple special event at the historic California Theater on Tuesday in San Jose, California. AFP

More expensive

Amazon's seven-inch Kindle Fire proved popular last year, and a new version was launched last month.

Meanwhile, a Google Nexus 7 powered by Android software has since joined the Samsung Galaxy in the seven-inch tablet market.

While the cheapest iPad mini costs $329, less than the original iPad, the device is still considerably more expensive than the seven-inch tablets from Amazon, Google and Samsung—which start at $199.

Independent technology analyst Jeff Kagan said the new smaller iPad was a gamble for Apple in that it risked cutting into sales of the original iPad.

"But this will cannibalize some of the iPad, but pull the camera back and you can see how it will increase the size of the Apple ecosystem here," Kagan said.

"This will open up new segments of the market to Apple...segments that would like an Apple, but which prefer a smaller screen or a lower price tag."

Apple shares ended the formal trading day down 3.26 percent to $565.25 but regained ground in after-market trading.

Some analysts believe the iPad mini was priced too high to fend off competition from Nexus 7 and Kindle tablets.

"Yes, $329 seems to be in the Apple ecosystem door, price/performance sweet spot for the $200 consumers," said Forrester analyst Frank Gillett.

Slick Mac upgrades

"However, you are inside the Apple experience and have access to iTunes, iBooks, iMessage, etc. Gillett continued.

"If these things are important to you, it is a no-brainer. If you are really focused on Amazon's content, then the Amazon product is going to be more appealing," he added.

Cook also introduced slick upgrades to Apple's line of Macintosh computers, nine of which have surpassed the seven all personal computer number for six years running.

Apple slimmed down its top-selling model, the 13-inch MacBook Pro, and gave it a "retina display" that the company manages that does not high-definition television sets. Starting price for the new MacBook Pro model was $1,699.

A new model iMac with the computing hardware built into the display monitor is expected to complement smartphones or tablets in modern lifestyles.

The new iMacs started at $1,299 with the first models available in November.

"What we are left with this iMac is the vastly improved way of defining what we think about the personal computer in the world of mobile," Cillett said.

"We still have a computer at home or work that picks up where we left off on our tablet, then puts it off back in when we walk away." AFP

Sparks crush Nomads, keep UFL bid alive

FINALLY playing to its full potential, Loyola Meralco overwhelmed Singapore, 8-1, Tuesday night to strengthen its bid to a close in the knockout stage of the United Football League Cup at the Pasig Memorial Stadium. The Sparks drew a hat-trick from striker Phil Younghusband and showcased the kind of attacking play that the reputed net boom looking for after a sluggish start saw them split their first two matches. —**Cedelf P. Tupas**

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Delos Reyes

Texters keep perfect slate

Petron gives Olsen team's reins

By Mikeagelo R. Castillo

JASON Castro hit the unexpected three-pointer to lend Talk 'N Text to a less satisfying, 79-76 victory over Barako Bull that kept the Tropang Texters undefeated in the PBA Philippine Cup last night at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The triple at the final 1:27 mark was Castro's only basket in the fourth period and eventually secured for the Texters their fifth straight win.

Barako Bull had several chances to tie after that Castro conversion, but the Energy bungled them all, with Arch Ubiñas-Dolopo capping a poor shooting night by throwing up an airball for the potential game-tying try.

The Energy dropped to 2-1 although Talk 'N Text coach Norman Black praised Barako Bull for keeping the game even and almost stealing it in the end.

"I think coach Jamel (Herrak of Barako Bull) did a great job of scouting us and coming up with several game plans against us," said Black.

Meanwhile, Petron Blaze addressed its coaching situation by putting newly appointed local coach Olsen Racela in full command of the squad, a source revealed yesterday.

Before the move, Racela and assistant Koy Banal shared coaching duties.

The source added it is unlikely Yeoman will stay on the Petron bench when the Boosters face Globalport tomorrow.

Sean-o Elmer rallied from six points down at the start of the fourth period to nip San Mig Coffee, 80-79, in the second game.

Joel Cruz completed a four-point play and Beau Belga added a triple with 1:56 left, completing the comeback from the 68-62 deficit they faced. who responded to 4-1.

San Mig took a second straight win and dropped to 2-2 overall.

KELLY Williams of Talk 'N Text collars the rebound against Doug Kramer (left) and Rico Villanueva of Barako Bull. —NOEL CELIS/AFP

Golden heave for USLS bet

By Cedelf P. Tupas

A SHOT in priority has downed Nisha Arce Orot's chance for nominations for publicist and vice-captaincy of host University of St. Louis (still) proud two strong for the rest of the field yesterday as she initiated her women's diving career title in the 17th Southern Dragon University Games here.

The 17-year-old former Miriam Quezon standout fanned the plate to a distance of 27.40 meters under no-only-morning drizzle for the start of the athletics competition at the Donald Stadium.

"It's not my best but I understand because I haven't been training as often as I used to," said De Orot. favored to nail her second gold to shotput into in the city.

Defending champion Ike Ramirez II set to a 16-A-division campaign in tandem with a sweep of the men's and women's 4x200-m relay.

And here's De Philippine National Games decathlon gold medalist Aries Gil, the Tamaraw clocked 1 minute 27 seconds for the men's elite gold medal. Also part of the quintet were Arnaldo Elvan, Jelroy Ben Santos and seventeen-Allah Ian Dolor Santos.

The Lady Tamaraws completed the double with Abigail Gianan, Jerry Jeanelle, Jade Pelaniabla and Josie Abdocol ruling the event over (14) champion USZ.

Over at the USLS Coliseum, National U notched its third straight victory in men's basketball with an 86-76 win over Far Eastern U.

Big Chill gets going vs JRU today

By Jacinto W. Paye

TERRENCE Romeo and Ryan Buenafe will lead the new look Big Chill squad when it battles newcomer Jose Rizal University-Air 21 in the PBA D-League Aspirants' Cup today at Filoil Flying V Centre in Sta. Mesa.

Coach Robert Sison hopes to draw from the two-veteran members the same firepower provided by Alex Mallari and Keith Agovao, the Filipino-Americans duo highly drafted in the past after leading the Superchargers to last conference's finals.

"We're happy to sign up these exciting players," said Sison.

The Superchargers and the Brothers clash at 2 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. match between Cebu Fruties and another debuting squad Pealon.

Thursday's finals from invincible BDO UNAP title romp, team up with the former University's Steven and Arvie Bringas, Adamson's Rodney Brondial, Jun Sembrano's Jonathan Bonsato and University of the Philippines' Ado Montecastro.

The Brothers, though, hope teamwork will be their advantage with the core of John Lopez, Jeric Hernuevo and Steven Villamin leading their core polgat.

"We've just been to organize the players so to a higher level of competition and develop the team's chemistry," said JRU coach Angel Manzano.

The Brothers also hooked up by acquiring two players Rhaizan Mikee and Anthony Abdon.

SUNDAY'S TICKET
(Game Starts 4p.m.)
Fu vs — Big Chill
vs JRU
Ag vs — Cebu Fruties
vs Pealon

Olaivar shines in Abap Visayas tilt

By Pol Ludica

BAGO CITY—Rising star Orville King Olaivar of Tagbilaran posted backto-back victories in the first two matches to lead the semifinalist of the ongoing PLDT-Abap Visayas area tournament at the Bago Coliseum here.

Olaivar, a Talisay Pandaraan campaigner, sweated his opponents over Bacolod's Darryl Victorino, 15-5, on Monday then defeated to tallag Mark Espinosa, 14-4, on Tuesday to become the favorite to the junior boys' paperweight (46 kg) division.

Joining him in the semis of the junior division southpaw in fourteen (13 to 20 years old was Bago city Mario Jugo, who beat Jeffrey Bonifacio, 14-10.

Other winners were Mark Anthony Montevirgen of Hinoba-an and Hipolito Bonal Jr. of Manolave in the junior boys' light (bantam) (48 kg) category; Leonel Antoni of Bago City A, Elenita Pascual of Dumaguete and Kenneth Neil Montellano of Tagbilaran in the flyweight (50 kg) division; and Ahmad Kevin of Manolave, Leve, and Mikela Anthony Barajero of Negros Oriental in the light (bantamweight (52 kg) division.

JEAN Henri Lhuillier answers questions during the PCA Open press conference. With him a tournament chair Roland Kraut.

Star-studded PCA Open starts Nov. 10

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE BIGGEST names in Philippine tennis led by the current members of the country's Davis Cup team will see action next month in the 31st Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open tennis championships at its famed shell-clay courts in Paco, Manila.

Foreign-based talents Treat Huey, Ruben Gonzales and Marc Rosset have confirmed their participation in the two-week event starting on Nov. 10.

The event announced by Jean Henri Lhuillier, CEO of event promoter Cebuana Lhuillier, yesterday during the press conference launching the tournament.

"From my end I would say this would be the biggest PCA Open because of the caliber of players who are seeing action and their world rankings," said Lhuillier who also upped the prize money to the open competition by P450,000.

Filipino-Scotsman, Katherine Lubanski, ranked No. 444 in the world, will see action in the women's singles along with national team members Clarice Pentecostes and Marian Jade Capadocia.

Also present in the contract signing and press launch were tournament chairman Roland Kraut, Philippine Tennis and PCA Team Captain Roland Kraut.

The event is backed by Ria Tembus, Head, Robelot, PCSO, PVL Reinforcement and Whirlpool.

MVP fails our sports 'revolucionarios'

BARE EYE

Ricardo Trinidad

If that's not his right overall in a week.

But on Monday, a good number of national sports associations (NSAs) heads attended a dinner and breakfast that reminded me of a movement that would hopefully succeed in working for sound reforms in the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Not hopeful, indeed some of the good names of NSAs and athletes expressed views, "enough to win the POC presidency," count or the Dinner.

There seems figures clustered up to swing tennis legend Manny Pangilinan into the formally announcing his bid for the POC presidency.

* * *

Pangilinan, popularly known as MVP, wealthy sports patron and three-term senator in the club national sports landscape unless it was organized by who "unifying to run for the POC presidency."

MVP now answered his interviews on to run for the POC post, but at the same time demanded that enough NSA heads name him candidate for interviews to run for him.

Explained national amateur boxing association head Ricky Vargas, a top MVP deputy: "I know MVP he would surely help. But it's up to the national sports associations to show their confidence in such a change."

Vargas added these NSA heads to come out to the open and pledge their support for MVP "to become the next sports czar it could be."

* * *

There were quite expressions in the house down close to Monday's MVP dinner.

Then, yesterday morning (yesterday) sportswriter were female classmates to give after it was reported here in the known that MVP has declared running for presidency in his side.

Manny Lopez, POC five vice president, said it's unlikely sports associations "enough to dislodge Peping Cojuangco as POC head by simple majority," revealed the Pangilinan meeting.

Lopez, who was PH delegation chief de mission to London, reportedly has had a falling out with Cojuangco.

* * *

Anyway, athletes associations generally no to Peping but, who has reached out the secret against what he called the dreaded and scandalous Cojuangco regime, met with an MVP sports aide in Quezon City on Tuesday. DTE was in the process of formally fielding at least four more NSA heads to the group that showed up in Monday's MVP dinner.

DTE was making me #1 consult like to talk to Pangilinan," we heard. "We want Pangilinan to run very much."

It's no secret it was DTE who deliberated the ruling years that led to Cojuangco-aligned (or no) Monzon's 23 - 7-0, in the late POC public showdown a subsequent rift led to the latter's dismissal previous sea games in the national olympic movement.

"That only means Peping is a no-sense guide," Cojuangco said.

* * *

Excluded sweetened sheep Thursday.

He says in the process of fielding names for recommendations in the MVP fusion unless he got a call from Philippine Basketball Coaches Association (PBCA) chairly before lunch yesterday.

"Belle told me MVP is not running," Cojuangco explained later.

He sounded both resentful and lost.

"Belle told me MVP said it was not the right time, so others will be the right time?"

DTE disputed, requested to unveil that message on MVP thursday. Her insistence.

Pangilinan, when you invited NSA heads, they responded negatively or any consequence they might face from the resilient POC leader. They knew the sudden sun over an unsalary night with the likes of Lopez against tyranny in PH sports. But for God's sake, I can't believe that, after that blissful evening, you would turn your back to a noble cause of securing sanctity of sports in the country, and reject moves a culture of decent membership and corruption. We are all disappointed, myself in particular who moved heaven and earth for you. Bare sure don't turn their backs in the middle of battle."

Meanwhile, we were called by ousting president Cebu Boxers, a former POC president, to ask if the sine anchor could still be saved.

His advice: "MVP should openly endorse Cojuangco in order to forestall those the sleep group support."

DTE said that someone should be Cojuan himself.

Bayron, Korean share Calatagan lead

By Marang R. Castillo

CALATAGAN, Batangas—Rufino Bayron, a fourteen-national team mainstay still seeking to win his first gold, spun a solid 4-under par 67 and shares the ICTSI Calatagan Invitational with Korean amateur Hyung Kang-yul yesterday.

Bayron sees Bandera in his final nine holes, gunning down three of his six birdies to complete one of his three shots as a par before he was joined by Hyung on top in taking the lightweight race from star Juvic Pagunsan.

Pagunsan, coming in two-time local title for the first time since finishing second in the Japan Open close to two months ago, eagled the par-5 finishing hole to salvage a 72 and stay five shots off the pace.

Jeremiah Bato was in third with a 69 even as Marvin Dumanchin, Jr. held Villanueva and defending champion Juvic Pagunsan were another six shots back after shooting one-over rounds of 76 over the Tree-lined, Robert Trent Jones course.

Pagunsan was only thanked for the eagle, 4th setting a poor start that saw him bogey the par-3 first and dropping shots on the 8th and 9th for a bout side 38.

Hyung, a 19-year-old finishing son of Korean in Bulacan, Luzon, finished two of his first four birdies before pitching an ace shot on the par-3 eighth to match 3-under on the turn.

Chinese Hong had an up-and-down 71 highlighted by a three-hole stretch of birdies and a same string of dropped shots on the front nine.

Lee sets up Mizuno TCC semis duel with Popp

SEOGWIPO champion Gerrick Lee of Apalit Greenfield has earned Rosalie Nitz of Tagaytay Highlands, 4 and 2, yesterday to arrange a semifinal showdown with Christina Popp of Orchard in the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship of Golf Champions at the Jeju course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Jeju, Jeju, Korea.

Popp made it all the way to the semifinals after rolling his entertainer round last Monday.

Maggie Rivera of Iloilo, the second seed, beat an Eun Hyung of Manila Southwoods, who turned back Vanya Ignatius of Subic, 4 and 3, in another quarterfinal encounter of the Korean tournament by Mizuno, Inquirer and Golf Digest magazines.

In the men's division, Manfred Gonzales of Alabang Country Club, Fernando of Southwoods, Jose Pablo of Tagaytay topped the last two spots of the qualifiers.

Top seeds Dylan Lacanilao of Valley Golf and Dante Gonzales, 4 and 3.

Laguna hot as Batang Pinoy SL leg gets going

By Jane Manners

CALAMBA, Oriental Mindoro—Laguna dominated the start of the Southern Luzon leg of the Philippine Olympic Committee-Philippine Sports Commission Batang Pinoy Games yesterday by sweeping up the men's and girls' gold medals in the Jose Leido Memorial National High School oval here.

Gilbert Remegio fished off his bid to sweep his long-distance events by riding the boys' 14-15 5,000-meters in 16 minutes 20.5 seconds.

Mark Adrielle Gabor of Dasmariñas City (pink), was a far second in 16:52.1 while Earl Ellis Pamatmat was third in 16:58.8.

"I should be in great condition to win all of my events," said Remegio, a third-year student from Siniloan High School, in Pilipino. He is also the top favorite in the 1500m, 800m, 2000m walk and is a member of the 4x100m relay and 4x400m relay teams.

Joshua Montemayor of Pila, Laguna, finished the girls' coastal in 18:39.7 for 14-15 shot put with a heave of 10.48 meters.

Other winners from Laguna were Marjorie Limot (girls' 14-15 2000m walk), Reena Oros (girls' 14-15 high jump) and Charles Mar Hokanta (girls' 14-15 shot put).

Elaine Pantorilo could have given Laguna a sixth gold after topping the boys' 13-under 2000m walk but he was disqualified later and Christopher Feija of Dasmariñas was declared the winner instead.

Feija also snatched a second gold for Dasmariñas after a 3.60-meter leap in the boys' 13-under long jump.

Tough opening doubleheader for Blu Boys

THE Philippine Blu Boys face their toughest rivals in a doubleheader kicking off today the Asian men's softball championship in Mini City in Japan.

The Blu Boys tangle with freelancer Asian rival Indonesia at 11:30 a.m. (11:30 Manila time) then meet co-host Gifu Softball Association at 3:30 p.m. (3:30 p.m. Manila time).

If they conquer their dominance of the tournament, the Blu Boys would most likely finish one of the three world championship slots at stake in this tournament since the rest of the field—Hong Kong, Singapore and Indonesia—are below the caliber of the Filipinos.

The tournament has been reduced to a four-day affair with the accomplished absence of powerhouse Chinese Taipei, Korea and China this time.

The Filipinos have won this tournament three—1981, 1978 and 1980—all against the Japanese. Japan, on the other hand, retained seven of its titles against the Blu Boys.

Badminton ranking tilt up Oct. 27

THE MVP Sports Foundation-Philippine Badminton Ranking System (PBaRS) Manila leg gets going Saturday at Powersmash with a second field joining the event.

Three categories—the Open men's singles, the Under-15 and U-15 boys' singles—will each have a 128-player field while the rest of the 12-division event has either a 32-player or 64-player unit for this country's premier circuit being the warmest sponsored by MVP Sports Foundation.

Toby Sitoh, who swept the first five Open's men's singles titles, will have his hands full in his bid for a record sixth straight crown with No. 2 Paul Vivas and the Kessel Palma Balendez led by 5-6 Nicole.

Top-seed Gabby Capili leads the women's side in the five-day event organized by the Philippine Badminton Association headed by Vice President Jaymee Bhoy, Atty. Manny V. Pangilinan and secretary general Tap Atlee Gamboa.

Ace riders dispute motocross titles

A BATTLE royale between Thailand's Aroon "Turbo" Thepha and Japan's Tomoya "Kamikaze" Suzuki, the leaders of the combined Asian 125 category of the FIM Asia Motocross Championship, looms in the Jack Daniel Barrocca Indoor Supercross Championships at Speedworld MX Circuit in BM Bicutan, Parañaque City on Oct. 27 and 28.

The event will carry two rounds of the Asian Motocross Championship.

Barrocca president Manny Gangtan thanked Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn, Philippine Sports Commission and Philippine Olympic Committee for their support.

The famous will be hosting the Mayor Edward Hagedorn Cup on Nov. 18.

Thepha, with the slim support of Jugotti Yakkoplace, finished first in the opening round he held in Puerto Princesa City and Dumaguete last year.

Suzuki, backed by competitor Hiroshi Kawano, hopes to rise to the challenge this time around.

Kawasaki San Antonio and veteran John Sandoy will represent the Philippines.

FRIENDSHIP ACTION Chicago Bulls forward Carlos Boozer (9) shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder's Serge Ibaka during their NBA preseason game in Chicago. The Bulls won 94-91. —AP

POC POLLS

Pangilinan not running

By Jane Manners

MANNY V. Pangilinan is not running in the Philippine Olympic Committee elections.

The country's top sports patron, asked to challenge POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. in the Nov. 30 polls, yesterday announced that he's not ready to assume any position on the local Olympic hierarchy and would just continue helping sports through his MVP Sports Foundation.

"After long reflection and considerable thought, and taking into account the many complex—and challenging—factors in the assessment, especially the demands on my time which such a position entails, with a heavy heart, I have concluded that now is not the right time for me to join the POC in an executive capacity," said Pangilinan in a statement.

Several national sports associations have been clamoring for Pangilinan to run against Cojuangco.

Representatives from 25 NSAs attended a dinner meeting hosted by the Gatchalian-backed ng Filipinos president and boxing and badminton chair on Monday night with most of them ready to pledge support.

"I am truly grateful to all those who expressed their support for my candidacy to the POC. Much appreciated," said Pangilinan. "I know I will disappoint many of you with this decision, and for this I am really sorry."

POC first vice president Monsay Lopez said Pangilinan has enough members in the lodge Cojuangco from the top POC post by simple majority during the elections at Alabang Town Center.

A total of 48 NSAs and two athlete representatives—Olympians Marestella Torres and Hidilyn Diaz—and International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde will vote in the polls.

With Pangilinan out of the POC race for good, the group of NSAs clamoring for his election has to scramble to find another standard bearer willing to face Cojuangco.

The deadline for filing of candidacy is at noon tomorrow.

Alas submits written apology: 'Heat of the moment'

By Cedrik F. Tupas

LETHARGY coach Louie Alas has submitted a written apology to the NCAA Management Committee for his unsporting behavior in Game 2 of the 3-win against San Beda at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Being a one-game suspension that falls smack on the biggest game of the season, the undecided service immediately gave his letter to NCAA Executive Chair Fr. Vic Cabas of Letran Tuesday night in response to the league decision.

"I submitted it (written apology) to Fr. Vic (Cabas) already and I hope the Mancom will accept it," Alas said yesterday.

The NCAA Mancom had upheld the recommendation of tournament commissioner Joe Lipa to demand an apology from Alas for what he felt was a disgraceful act against NCAA head of referee Benjy Barrera in Game 2 which the Knights won, 64-51, to force a winner-take-all clash with the Lions tomorrow.

Reacting to a slit-throat gesture by Alas, Guevarra charged at the Letran coach in the dying seconds of Game 2 before cooler heads prevented a confrontation.

The NCAA Mancom also required Guevarra to submit a written apology.

"I'm very sorry about it," said Alas. "It was in the heat of the moment. I didn't disrespect anybody. I'm just doing my job."

SIM

Korean gamer tops poker tourney

KOREAN national Sim Yong-nam headed on his massive stack all throughout his drive on the final table to capture the sixth leg of the P10 million Philippine Poker Tour (PPT) early Wednesday morning at Squires Poker Club in Ilaro, Mabalacat City.

With an imposing 3-to-1 chip lead going in, he fended off local challengers with local Ivy Fernando De Guzman, the 29-year-old online gamer from Seoul breezed to the P962,900 top prize and a seat in the Final Table of Championship in March. De Guzman settled for the P598,400 runner-up purse.

Finishing third was Swedish event-runner-in Alex Jonas followed by Player of the Year frontrunner Martin Crayen, Jay Tolon, Edwin Mascuguel, Jason Wong, Edwin Marcos, Elmer Kalaquian and Kim Jong-ho.

PPT Commissioner Jesper Jojo Mikado presented the trophy to Sim.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

THE CITY of Manila registered the highest number of dengue/suspected cases in the National Capital Region from Jan. 1 to Aug. 18 this year with 7O reported cases, followed by Quezon City with 45 reported cases.
Inquirer Research

PMA CADET EARNS MEDAL FOR JEEPNEY HOLDUP HEROICS

Aviles a rarity

By Marlowe Bristola

HIS COMBAT medal came quite early, earned in an urban battle he never really trained for.

The Philippine Military Academy (PMA) cadet who was shot and seriously wounded when he tried to thwart a jeepney robbery recently in Quezon City earned the Bronze Cross Medal from the Armed Forces of the Philippines on Wednesday for what a general described as "a rare feat among young people."

Giving snappy salutes while still in hospital clothes, Cadet First Class Alfonso Aviles, 23, received the honors two months after coming out of a coma and with the police yet to identify the man who nearly killed him after taking his PMA ring.

"Despite great threat to the presence of a robber armed with a .45-cal. pistol, Cadet Aviles demonstrated extraordinary courage and bravery by attempting to disarm the robber, disregarding his personal safety for that of others," according to the citation read during the simple awarding rites held at AFP Medical Center in Quezon City.

Aviles, a native of Pangasinan province, went into a coma after sustaining gunshot wounds in the face and chest.

He tried to tackle the jeepney robber at the corner of Regalado Xavier and Commonwealth Avenue on the night of Aug. 15.

To a lady's rescue

The son of a retired Marine came to the aid of a female commuter who was being robbed and engaged the robber in a scuffle. The robber then shot him twice and managed to take his engineers running off.

The cadet was in Manila that day as he was scheduled to serve as a proctor for the PMA entrance examination.

"To those who prayed for me, thank you so much," Aviles simply said after receiving the medal from PMA superintendent Maj. Gen. Alfredo Pesaña Jr. The Bronze Cross Medal is given to civilian or military personnel of the AFP who have risked their lives or shown great heroism in situations outside an armed conflict.

"He showed great courage and bravery despite great threat, and for that he brought pride and honor not only to himself and the PMA but also to the whole Armed Forces," Pesaña said.

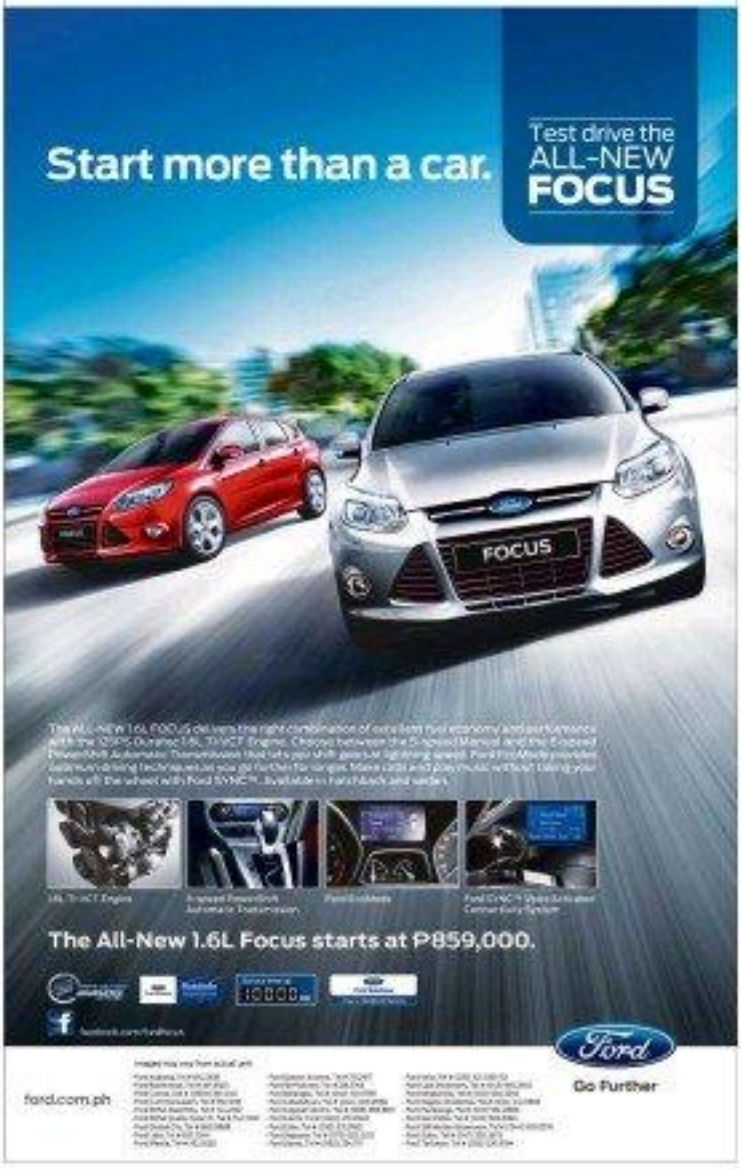
"He did an extraordinary feat which is rare among young people like him," said PMA commandant of cadets Gen. Carlos Quiry, who gave Aviles his new ring as member of Fidelitas Kalis Class of 2013, replacing the one that was stolen.

According to the cadet's father, retired Marine Master Sgt. Rodolfo Aviles, his son was still having difficulty speaking and concentrating but that his overall condition had clearly improved since the incident.

"Mixto ke regained consciousness, he im-

MORE ON A21

PROUD PARENTS Bemedalled Cadet First Class Alfonso Aviles gets a kiss from mother Margie and a big smile from his father Rodolfo, a retired Marine sergeant. —MARLOWE BRISTOLA



Guardias de Honor de Maria celebrates Silver Jubilee

Uniting all members of the Guardias de Honor de Maria Recited Chapter for a General Assembly and a celebration of 25 years of grace!

The Association of the Guardias de Honor de Maria started in Sto. Domingo Convent in Quezon City. It is even said that San Lorenzo Ruiz was a member of this Association then called La confradia del Santisimo Rosario.

The Recited chapter was founded on March 25, 1987 by Rose Mary Epifania Rosal, OP then Principal of the St. Rose of Lima School of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines. The foundation coincided with the laying of the cornerstone of their Holy Rosary Chapel at St Rose of Lima School. On that day, 3 sacristans were crowned the rosalia.

On this month of the Holy Rosary, the association honors Mary Regina Rosary, the Queen of the Holy Rosary on the celebration of this Silver.

Jubilee coincides with the last Saturday of the month. Mass will be said at the Candelaria Church in Greenville by Most Rev. Victorino Navarra, DD., Bishop of The Diocese of Bacolod together with the wise Parish Priest's Hermano Pujanes and Evan.

Our Lady Regina Rosary Virgin Most Powerful, Intercede for us!

Weak evidence does PDEA case in

By Nika Calleja

THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) suffered another blow in its fight against drug traffickers after a Pasay judge acquitted yesterday two people the agency arrested during an entrapment operation last year.

According to Judge Gregorio Alan Alaurin of the Pasay Regional Trial Court Branch 118, she found the evidence against Hong Kong citizen Li Wa Hu and Chinese-Filipino Carlos Ang Tan weak because of the conflicting testimonies given by PDEA and the local police in the same case, she ordered their release from detention.

Alaurin's ruling comes on the heels of the acquittal nearly two weeks ago of Joseph Tesoro, the third member of the so-called "Alabang Boys," due to the "vague answers" given by a PDEA agent who testified in court about the trio's arrest in 2008.

Li and Ang Tan were arrested by PDEA agents during an entrapment operation at a hotel in Resorts World Manila last year. Around 67 crying in self-exile of cocaine worth P5 million to a poseur buyer on Feb. 10 last year, they were charged with violating Section 5 (sale of dangerous drugs) of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Following the arrest of the two men, PDEA had announced that Ang Tan was wanted by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Philippine National Police-Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force for drug smuggling and importation.

"It was not substantiated. There were no documents to prove the claims. So those were mere allegations," Alaurin said.

She added that the witnesses presented by PDEA and the Pasay police differed "completely contradictory" statements on the conduct of the entrapment operation.

She noted that PDEA had said the two have such place inside Mimosa Hotel while the police said it happened outside.

Alaurin, however, said she found it hard to believe that the police were able to secure firearms and other communication items inside the hotel despite its strict security measures.

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Aviles a rarity

From page A21

anxiously asked us what happened to him because he could not remember anything," said the elder Aviles.

Perales added: "We are still waiting for him to regain his perfect physical condition before we can decide to send him back to the PNP, but we are really hoping that his condition will improve in the next months."

Capt. Michaella Joseph Milleza, head of the medical team that attended to Aviles, said the patient is to be followed-pass outpatient sessions. "What is important is that he is now fit and undergoing recuperation. He is also undergoing strength and fitness exercises to retain," he explained.

A bullet that was lodged in his chest was not removed to avoid further risks. Aviles is also scheduled to undergo an operation next week that would place titanium plates near his fractured jaw, said one of the doctors, Capt. Grace Nacua-Galvez-Brito.

GOATHERD IN THE CITY A man herds and at the same time sells his livestock on C-6 Road in Taguig City, one of the last remaining stretches of grass on the edge of the metropolis. ROMEO RAZ

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Nothing wrong with wheelchair joke

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

WHEN you hear President Noy blaming former President Gloria and her administration, aren't you reminded of a hapless student that suddenly loses playing the same lyrics and melody over and over.

It's like when a disc jockey on board at a radio station goes to the rest room and does something goes wrong with the computer disc he's playing.

For the 6th time, PNoy made a punching bag out of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, although without naming her, in a speech before the Filipino community in Auckland, New Zealand.

Why can't the President just move on and let the courts decide the fate of Gloria and husband Mike Arroyo?

* * *

It's true that Gloria's administration was very corrupt, with some saying it was even more corrupt than that of Ferdinand Marcos.

But must PNoy keep saying this when every citizen knows about it?

He not only sounds like a broken record, he also sounds like a nagging wife who can't forget her husband's infidelity in the past.

* * *

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) should not feel offended by the President's joke about some corrupt Filipinos driving fancy cars, but try to evade prosecution in court by using wheelchairs.

That joke took a swipe at only who tried to leave the country on a wheelchair but was prevented from doing so by immigration authorities.

So what's wrong with that joke since it was not about PWDs?

* * *

I'm reminded of the ogango Jaguerson with a speech defect because of a cleft lip and palate) husband who came home early and wanted to surprise his wife.

He sneaked up on the room on who was supposed to be reading a newspaper.

The husband caressed his wife's eyes with both his hands, and said: Ngoro who?

I had nothing wrong with the joke even if one of my nine siblings has a cleft palate.

* * *

When you crack a joke, be ready for its boomerang effect.

Ferdinand Topacio, a lawyer for Mike Arroyo in various graft cases, reacted to the President's wheelchair joke.

"Inappropriate para hindi sa mayor ito kuha (He's trying to be funny when he's not [talented])."

* * *

The accused in the alleged murder of Ensign Philip Andrew Pestaño on board the BRP Bacolod City in 1995 has been issued more values the Xanadu decision dismissed the case for lack of jurisdiction.

If the judge of a regular court, which is expected to handle the murder case, looks hard at the evidence presented, he will acquit the accused.

The strong evidence indicates that the victim committed suicide.

Pestaño was allegedly despondent because he was being forced by his parents to marry a woman he didn't love.

Weeks before his suicide, he was confined at the Southern Command hospital in Zamboanga City for depression, according to records.

Father comes to son's rescue, thwarts robbery

A Mitsubishi arrested after he tried but failed to rob a talent training center in Bacolor, Pampanga, earlier this day. The police said that Antonio Hong, 36, a resident of Poblacion in Malolos City, initially posed as a customer of Music First Talent Training Center in Barangay Philam, Bacolor City, before he pulled out a bread knife and ordered Mark Tan, the supervisor of the establishment, to hand over his valuables. PO3 Marlon Tan of the Bacolor City Police District's Mesambong station said in a report that Hong was subdued by Mark Tan's father, Mark Pete, who happened to be in the training center. Father and son then called for help from police reservists Ronnie Flores and randomly and brought him to the Mesambong station. Seized from Hong were his cell phone and Yamaha Mio motorcycle with plate number 4502 TS.

Elmo Alexander Gonzaga

Suspect in fire arrested

TROPEA—A restaurant prosecutor said Wednesday an elderly man had been arrested and detained on suspicion of starting a fire at a hospital that killed 12 people and injured 60.

The blaze erupted before dawn on Tuesday at Beirano nursing facility in southern Tarsian City, where 115 patients included people in their 90s, with several left on their own to escape dense smoke that filled the building.

The 67-year-old man, surnamed Lin and also a patient at the hospital, said he lit cleaner papers and threw them in to a storage room full of clothes, said prosecutor Tseng Chen-kai.

Lin said he was feeling upset because he had been suffering from serious illness, the prosecutor said, adding that an initial evaluation found he did not appear to be mentally ill.

Prosecutor Tseng said Lin was busted by the police several hours after the fire in an empty house near the hospital with a lighter in his pocket and was later arrested after questioning. AFP

Fungus found at meningitis-linked firm

BOSTON—Massachusetts state officials investigating a pharmacy linked to a deadly outbreak of meningitis said Tuesday they found shoddy sterilization practices and serious conditions there, including debris covered floor mats and standing water from a leaking boiler.

State officials also said the New England Compounding Center (NECC) shipped steroids from the possibly contaminated batches suspected in the outbreak before it received its own test results confirming the drugs were sterile.

Gov. Deval Patrick said he's ordered state pharmacy regulators to conduct surprise inspections—the first of which happened Tuesday—at companies similar to the NECC and take other steps to tighten oversight. The state also has moved to revoke the company's operating license and the licenses of its top three pharmacists.

"These urban laboratory practices cannot take outbreak should never practice pharmacy or manufacture in Massachusetts again," Patrick said.

The outbreak of fungal meningitis, an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord, has sickened 308 people, including 23 who have died, in 17 states. The outbreak has been linked to a steroid made by the NECC and taken mainly for back pain. Compounding pharmacies like NECC custom mix solutions in doses or forms generally not commercially available.

The US government is conducting a criminal investigation.

The state said Tuesday that its preliminary investigation, which began last month after the company was first suspected in the growing outbreak, found large batches of drugs made by general distribution but not labeled for specific patients.

At least three patients the company to fill out only specific prescriptions for specific patients, and disinfecting drugs in bulk like a manufacturer would violate that, said Dr. Madeleine Biondolillo, director of the state Department of Public Health's Bureau of Healthcare Safety.

But company attorney Paul Clivel said it's "hard to imagine" state regulators weren't previously aware of the scale of its operations because they've worked so closely together. The state Board of Pharmacy has always had complete access to the facility, and board members were there so recently as last summer, he said.

"NECC's transparency in dealing with the board since inception in 1998 demonstrates its good-faith intention to operate in compliance with the requirements of its license," Clivel said.

Besides possible state license violations, Biondolillo said the inspectors also revealed "several health and safety deficiencies" at the NECC facility in Framingham, just west of Boston.

Biondolillo also detailed signs of flawed sterilization procedures, including black specks of fungus in sealed vials of the steroids, which were returned to the company during a recall.

Investigators found the company didn't sterilize its products long enough and didn't adequately test solutions its sterilization equipment was working, she said.

In addition, state on which people wiped their shoes to remove contamination before entering a sterile environment were "visibly dirty and soiled with assorted debris," she said. And a leaking boiler adjacent to a pharmacy clean room left an intermittent pool of water unsealed is and the adjacent walls, she said. AP

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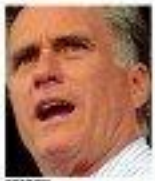
The WORLD

Editor Lenorie B. Gueco

Obama, Romney in mad dash to the finish line

LAS VEGAS—And they're off! Barack Obama and Mitt Romney galloped out of the post-debate gate Tuesday to woo swing state voters in the final two weeks of a race that seems destined for a photo finish.

OBAMA


ROMNEY

Both will crisscross America as they seek to edge in the presidential contest, but one story in particular—the Midwestern prize of Ohio—will get the lion's share of visits.

Senior Romney adviser Kevin Madden said: "People are really getting to that point where they are making their mind up in key states."

Barely nine hours after the third and final debate wrapped up Monday night with both sides declaring victory, Romney was on a plane to Nevada, from where he was to head on to the Rocky Mountain state of Colorado.

Both these states were won by Obama in his 2008 White House victory, but polls suggest they could swing to the Republican this year, putting stress on a route to a possible victory that must almost certainly pass through Ohio.

After his western jaunt, Romney will spread as Team Obama's day and Thursday in Ohio, part of America's industrial heartland, still hurting Democratic in most state polls but somewhere the Republican may smear a new momentum.

"He'll be going to Ohio and Virginia, he'll be back to Florida," said Ed Gillespie, another top Romney adviser. "We're obviously going to those states that are more critical to our path to electoral college success."

If history is a guide, Romney's yellow brick road to the 270 electoral votes needed for victory on Nov 6 must go through Ohio—no Republican has ever won the White House without also winning the Buckeye State.

Until this month Obama appeared to have a lock on Ohio and most of the other swing states, posting scientific-level leads in some polls and dominating key demographics—in particular women.

But, after Romney landed a lackluster Obama in their first debate on Oct. 3, the race began to narrow. Now, in nationwide polls then, especially in the 10 battlegrounds that will decide the result on Nov 6.

He still faces an uphill struggle in Ohio, however.

An average of recent state polls calculated by website RealClearPolitics.com gives Obama a 3.9 percent lead, while the fivethirtyeight.com polling blog for the New York Times estimates the president's advantage as 3.9 percentage.

No polling firm has ever given Romney the advantage in Ohio.

The president is determined not to cede this lead, which could prove his last line of defense against a Romney victory if all else fails. So he was in Ohio again on Tuesday, seeking to build on shrewd debate blasting.

"Boy, we have been through some tough times, but you have never seen me quit," Obama told crowds in Florida, before heading to Ohio, maintaining the air of confidence he exuded in his final head-to-head clash with Romney.

For weeks the Republicans have tried to convey a similar confidence that their game plan in Ohio will bring victory, hoping an impression of momentum will yet completely borne out by local polling will prove self-sustaining. AFP

NY billionaire gives $100M to famed park

NEW YORK—New York's famed Central Park is now a different kind of town Tuesday when a hedge fund billionaire made a $100-million donation, said to be the largest gift to a park of all time.

John Paulson, who made a fortune with the Paulson & Co. Inc. investment fund, announced the establishment in the Central Park Conservancy, which manages the Manhattan institution, at the iconic Bethesda Fountain.

"It is a great privilege to be able to contribute to the Central Park Conservancy, which is one of the most important cultural institutions in New York," he said.

"The Conservancy is responsible for transforming and sustaining Central Park as the celebration of culture, nature and democracy that it is today," he said. "It is my hope that today's contribution will help it endure and flourish and inspire others to join me in ensuring that the park continues to receive the support it needs to be this city's greatest asset."

Central Park has been dubbed the "lungs of New York for its spread of open grass, woodlands and ponds, stretching from the Midtown area into the upper reaches of Manhattan.

It has also been something of a barometer of the city's fortunes, becoming crime-ridden and badly kept in the 1970s and 1980s, before gradually being restored to its currently excellent condition.

"Mr. Paulson's donation is the largest gift ever made to the Central Park Conservancy. It is also the largest gift to any public park and one of the largest ever made to a New York City cultural institution," the Conservancy said in a statement.

"Mr. Paulson's gift comes at a time of unprecedented use of Central Park: with more than 40 million annual visitors, Central Park is visited by more people than any other New York City cultural institution." AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Buddhist, Muslim clashes spread in Burma

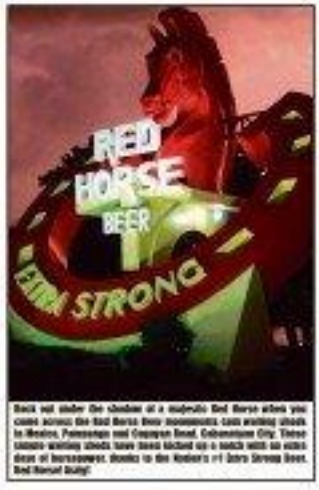
YANGON—Skirmishes between Muslims and Buddhists in ancient Burma (Myanmar) have spread to two new districts, where author Ibei are targeting in those factions from burning homes, the government said Wednesday. Rakhine state spokesman Win Thant said clashes between Rohingya Muslims and ethnic Rakhine Buddhists—importantly other parts of the coastal region Sunday—engulfed the townships of Kyaukphyu and Myebon late Tuesday. Violence swept the area in June after the alleged rape and murder of a Buddhist woman by three Muslim men in late May. The skirmishes, the worst began Sunday in Minbya and Mrauk-U districts, both located north of the regional capital, Sittwe. The government says up to three people were killed and more than 1,000 homes burned down. AP

Bruce Lee's HK house to go on sale

HONG KONG—Kung fu legend Bruce Lee's former residence in Hong Kong will be put up for sale after a plan to turn the property into a museum was dedicated to the iron fisted, a report said Wednesday. Philanthropist Fu Pingjin, who owns the mansion, which became a rundown love nest, said he was planning to sell the property for HK$1.90 million ($23 million) after talks with the government for the museum collapsed last year. "I'm no longer considering [the museum plan] since the government is not supportive," the 80-year-old billionaire told Hong Kong's Chinese-language Singtao Daily in an interview, adding that the hotel owner had failed to pay rent for two years due to poor business. Lee's legions of fans have long demanded a significant hometown tribute to the Chinese American star, who died in 1973 at the age of 32 after helping revolutionize martial arts in the movies with classics being its films such as "Fists of Fury" (1971) and "Enter the Dragon" (1973). AFP

6.5 earthquake shakes Costa Rica

SAN JOSE—A powerful earthquake struck Costa Rica's Pacific coast on Tuesday, swaying buildings and sending people running into the streets in the nation's capital of San Jose. The 6.5-magnitude quake was centered in the Guanacaste region of the Central American country, only 8 kilometers from the popular tourist resort of Nicoya, according to the US Geological Survey. It had a depth of 28.5 km, according to preliminary report. At the beach of Malpaiis, an hour drive from Nicoya, residents said they heard a roaring sound when the quake struck. "I'm shaken. But it doesn't feel close to how it sounds like. The sound was deafening," said Alberto Canales, a receptionist at the Hotel Pez Vela resorts. AP



Rock out under the shadow of a majestic Red Horse when you come across the Red Horse Rock monuments soon making stops in Mexico, Pampanga and Cagayan Road, Edsamalcom City. These canvas-making shows have been kicked up a notch with six extra doses of horsepower. Rocks to the Rockers of Zero Strong Beer. Red Horse Beer.

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Ayala unit to distribute Volkswagen in PH /B3

■ SC says Angat power plant sale legal /B8

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Budget gap widens to ₱106B in 9 months

Gov't spending remains lower than planned

By Rocelle M. Domingo

THE NATIONAL government's budget position went back to a deficit of ₱34.8 billion in September as revenues barely increased while expenses showed a double-digit jump.

Documents from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that the deficit in September brought the shortfall for the first nine months of the year to ₱106.1 billion, which was just 58 percent of the ₱182.3 billion that the government intended to spend beyond what it had for the period.

However, the nine-month deficit was twice the ₱53 billion that was recorded in the same period of 2011.

January-September spending reached ₱1.22 trillion, 9.8 percent short of the program for the first three quarters but 14.3 percent higher year-on-year.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad yesterday said that while spending was still lower than planned, the shortfall was "by sufficiently narrower" than the 16.1 percent recorded in the same period last year.

"With the higher expenditure growth due to improving absorptive capacities of departments and agencies, we are again confident that government spending will contribute significantly to economic growth in the third quarter," Abad said.

REPORT B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Oct. 24, 2012
41.360

STOCK MARKET
Oct. 24, 2012
33.63
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX

Stocks down on Wall St. fall

THE LOCAL stocks index fell for the fifth straight day yesterday as an overnight slowdown in Wall Street caused investors to take profits.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index fell by

STOCKS, B2

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MJIC aborts ₱2.15-B equity infusion from new investors

Parent firm decides to keep 51% stake in unit

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MANILA Jockey Club group has decided to keep a 51-percent stake in property unit MJIC Investments Corp., aborting the latter's participation of a ₱2.15-billion fresh equity infusion from new investors.

MJIC said its board decided to keep a majority stake in MJIC in a meeting yesterday and in notably a resolution passed by the latter only last Monday. "This decision shall ensure the full realization of the corporation's vision and successful implementation of its ongoing projects," MJIC disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

For its part, MJIC said its board adopted the decision of its parent company MJIC in a special meeting. This will modify MJIC's decision to accept the subscription by 10 companies to new shares in the company.

"The corporation shall now proceed to negotiate and accept new investments in accordance with such guidelines, i.e., that at least 51 percent of the subscribed expanded capital shall remain with the parent company," the MJIC said.

Last Monday's resolution to accept a ₱2.15-billion investment would have ceded 30 percent control of MJIC to the new investor group.

Asked what caused the change of heart, Alfonso Reyno Jr., chair of both MJIC and JMJC, said the parent company decided it did not want to lose control or be able to complete the project.

The fresh infusion from new investors would have been used to fund the construction of a hotel, casinos and entertainment hub at the San Lazaro Business and Tourism Park in Sta. Cruz, Manila. The tourism hub is envisioned to be an 18-floor casino and podium with an initial complement of 160 rooms and 900 parking slots at opening and expected to be completed in 2015.

"We may get less in equity but we can balance this with borrowings," Reyno said. "MJIC can also participate in equity-raising in case we all have to increase our investments along the way."

Since the new shares to be sold to new investors would be less, Reyno said MJIC would have to pare down fresh equity infusion to about ₱500 million.

He assured stockholders that the decision that MJIC would get would not in any way be related to the ensuing shareholders' war would be new strategic partners who could enhance the project. He said the new investors would be disclosed once the revised two-in-deal has been finalized.

The shareholders of MJIC have approved the increase of the firm's capital stock from ₱1.1 billion to ₱3 billion to accommodate the entry of new investors and new capital in the company as progress to "aggressively enter the fast-growing tourism arena."

Gotianun bank sees ₱1.8-B profit

GOTIANUN-LED East West Bank sees its 2013 net profit hitting ₱1.8 billion on the back of a double-digit growth in loans and an above-industry loan margin.

Based on materials disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), East West targets outstanding loans of ₱85 billion, expanding by 35 to 40 percent this year. In April, when the bank was closing its subscription for its stock debut, the target loan growth for this year was only 28.25 percent.

Alongside the loans disbursement bank's net income as well as net margins are seen settling at 3 percent.

In the first semester, the bank's net profit grew by 3 percent year-on-year to ₱920.5 million, translating to a return on average equity of 13.1 percent. This put the bank on track with its full-year profit guidance. Last year, net profit amounted to about ₱1.7 billion.

In terms of portfolio mix, more than half of the portfolio was still in consumer lending.

This year, the bank said it started tapping into affiliate property firm Villar Land's "loans to buyers" portfolio, to tie purchasing around P1 billion in receivables. "We'll continue to work with PLI on increasing our mortgage book," the bank said.

On listed EC, East West bank said its current projections showed that it would be compliant with the global adequacy framework by the time the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas implements it in 2014. "We are currently reviewing our financial projections to firm up when we'll need additional capital," the bank said. Doris C. Dumlao

CODAL Asia Holdings Inc. (CODAL) delivers at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) after the conclusion of its ₱899-million initial public offering. Among those present during the listing ceremony are Coal Asia Holdings Inc. president Jaime T. Ang and chair Harald Reuter; PSE Chairman Fe Barin; SEC Commissioner Juanita Castro; UNSEA Solon Manuel; PSE president and chief executive Hans B. Sicat, and Coal Asia director Dancer Y. Yu. CoalAsia closed at ₱1.30 a share on closing day from its offer price of ₱1 apiece.

Globe launches promo for prepaid subscribers

By Paolo C. Montecillo

EYES set to focus on growing its post-paid roster, Ayala-led Globe Telecom has launched a new promo offer that promises lower call and text rates for prepaid subscribers who make up the bulk of the company's user base.

Globe yesterday announced the launch of its new "GOSURF299" promo, which the company described as its strongest unlimited calling to date.

The introduction of the new service came as the company reported that its post-to-pre subscriber base rose 9 percent year-on-year to 16.1 million at the end of the first half.

"Globe Prepaid remains in full swing in 2013 with robust subscriber additions in the first half of the year despite intensifying competition and the behavior of prepaid subscribers who often switch SIMs or networks to maximize their call/ phone load," Globe prepaid group head Ed Osmeña said.

Half of the Globe group's subscriber base is made up of prepaid users. Growing users on their network 7M, more than 90 percent of the group's base are prepaid users.

Globe said second quarter gross acquisitions remained strong with 3 million new subscribers, 2 percent better than last quarter's level of 2.9 million.

Cumulative acquisitions for the first half of the year were likewise up 6 percent from 5.8 million last year to 6.9 million now. With this period.

Keeping growth momentum for the second half of the year, Globe unveiled its newest prepaid offer bundled with unlimited texts, calls and access to Facebook, one of the top social networking sites in the country.

Globe Prepaid GOSURF299 allows subscribers to enjoy unlimited texts to all networks, unlimited calls to Globe/TM and unlimited Facebook on mobile phones for only P30 valid for an entire day or two.

"Filipinos are one of the world's biggest texters, callers and Facebook users as social connections are important to us, no matter where we are," Osmeña said.

Budget gap widens

From page B1

Even then, he said there was much room for improvement in the capacity of agencies to implement programs and projects and to disburse released funds.

Nine-month revenues reached P1.12 trillion, which was 95.6 percent of the goal for the period but 18 percent higher than year-ago actual take.

In September alone, expenditures reached P160.2 billion, 14.1 percent higher than the P140.8 billion spent in the same month last year. Revenues reached P168.2 billion, an increase of 8.9 percent from P154.3 billion a year ago.

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said bank and major revenue agencies...the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs ...have consistently exceeded the previous year's collections.

"Our aggressive efforts to improve tax compliance have consistently generated fiscal space to provide funding for the Aquino administration's spending priorities," Purisima said.

Stocks down on Wall St. fall

From page B1

At outperformer among PSEi stocks was Rcbc (+4.17 percent) on speculation that an investment deal with Metrobank would be finalized soon. Rcbc vice chairman Wilfrido Ocier is in Australia as part of President Aquino's business delegation and there were speculations that he would meet with Australian billionaire James Packer to finalize the deal with Metrobank (+4.13 percent), which will have a minority stake in the casino ventures, after its breakfast from the upswing. Doris C. Dumlao

Ayala unit to distribute Volkswagen in PH

By Doris C. Dumlao

EUROPEAN car manufacturing giant Volkswagen AG has engaged Ayala conglomerate to ramp up its new car distribution partnership, seeking to increase its increasingly consumer affluence in the country in line with its push of becoming a global leader.

Volkswagen, which is headquartered in Wolfsburg, Germany, announced on Wednesday the appointment of Ayala's wholly owned subsidiary Ayala Automotive Holdings Corp., as the Philippine distributor of Volkswagen passenger vehicles. The distribution agreement will bring together two premier corporate names to compete in an industry with high growth potential.

"We are very excited to bring Volkswagen's technology and engineering expertise to the Philippine market. This partnership will enable a further Ayala strong presence in the local automotive industry," Ayala Corp. president and chief operating officer Fernando Zobel de Ayala told reporters in a briefing.

Building on the Ayala group's resilient distribution and market knowledge, we are excited about offering consumers in the Philippines Volkswagen's outstanding lineup of vehicles and providing them with an unparalleled level of sales and service experience," said Volkswagen Asia Pacific Gmbh Chairman Jochen Sengpiel, Volkswagen AG.

In an important part of Volkswagen's future growth strategy, it will, jointly with the Ayala Group, plan to rapidly and robustly establish the brand Volkswagen in the Philippines, contributing to our aspiration to become the world's number one car manufacturer by 2018," Sell said.

Ayala Automotive has interests in both Honda Cars Philippines, the second biggest auto assembler in the Philippines in terms of wholesale sales, and Isuzu Philippines Corp., a leading distributor of cars, trucks and engines.

Ayala's car dealerships—Honda Cars Makati Inc. and Isuzu Automotive Dealership Inc.—account for 40 percent of the revenues of the Honda franchise in the Philippines and 32 percent of total Isuzu sales.

Volkswagen cars are manufactured in the Philippines by the Gaisano family at the late 1960s to late 1970s. The distributorship later ended over by Auto Promotions Corp.

The Volkswagen group is the world's second largest automobile manufacturer as of 2013, with global sales of 8.265 million units, accounting for 12.3 percent of the passenger car market. In Jan. to June 2013, Volkswagen sales more than 500,000 people worldwide as of end-2013. Volkswagen vehicles are sold in 153 countries.

"There is no doubt reliability is at the top of the Ayala appointment criteria," said Ayala Corp. chief executive officer for Volkswagen vehicles in the Philippines," Ayala Automotive chair and CEO Rufino Luis Manotok said.

Ayala has diversified business interests in the Philippines and is a leading player in real estate development, banking and financial services, telecommunications, water infrastructure development, electronics manufacturing and business process outsourcing.

STRI, standing despite the onslaught of catastrophic wind from Haiyan, the country's only surviving integrated fire steel factory owned by Bulacan-based Steel Corp. of the Philippines, or SCP, confronts one more threat to its existence.

About two months ago, one of the three, the Batangas City-HTC-owned SCP's liquidation. The court in effect ignored several other cases on the company's rehabilitation, pending at the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

One month before, one of the country's most influential business groups like the PCCI (Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry), in which SCP officials are active members, are saying that the steel order vessels—all the fleets of the local steel service.

The officials are also crying foul, people about other cases filed by the creditors, including foreign banks. After lengthy trial, the last single SCP, filed approved the rehab plan.

In other words, the company—containing the last standing integrated flat steel plant in the country—could still be saved. There, rehabilitation has been stopped by the court, at of its assets, pushed its liabilities and even downgraded the P1.97 billion "receivables" value, from the original P1.2 billion, to a measly P500,000 in the liquidation.

Also, the receivership report amplified SCP's liabilities, because it added even unpaid loan interests, although these were still under litigation in the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

The thing is this: Does the law allow the losers to take on cases that still await decision of the higher court? Well, to me, it sounded a bit disrespectful of the judicial system.

Anyway, the arguments of the steel companies could actually become beneficial legislation, even a bit unruly, when a subset of the questionable liquidation order. Not to name a natural that the court could govern, note of R.A. 10142, or the Financial Rehabilitation and Insolvency Act, known among lawyers as FRIA.

Passed only two years ago, FRIA provides for the liquidation of bankrupt companies, with an institution for creditors filed could get approved from more than 50 percent of their creditors.

That was in 2010, and it so happened that, more than 10 SCP's creditors, the creditor party filed its rehab petition in court way back in 2006, nothing that provisions in the FRIA, the court did not have authority to order the liquidation.

In other words, the Bulacan RTC seemed to be caught happy on applying the FRIA to the SCP case. To think, certain using creditors of the company actually bought SCP debt papers from the original holders at huge discounts.

Of course they also would not disclose the price they paid for those notes. ***

The primary issue is, organizations and persons accused by unnamed into the press conference of anti-drug organizations, called "alliances," with Arab forces calling on the Committee to Disqualify Akbayan to party-list elections in 2013.

What this... and even locally-brought those against anti-gay sex affairs in the so-called progressive movement, both claiming to represent "marginalized" sectors like the urban and rural poor, labor, women and children, and indigenous peoples.

Among the representatives who spoke to Congress were Rina Hontiveros-Baraquel, convener under the LP slate of our leader, Senator Simon, a.k.a. BS, Walden Bello (LP presidency) and Sidney "Zeke" Boy to Bautista (right-lawyer).

"Our Cock record speaks for itself," according to a recent party statement. Bello, the rank in Congress ends in the history of the people scene in 1999 involving the privatization of National Power Corporation, or being the only party list group that opposed human rights abuses of the military and police.

Here is a telling portion of the statement. But beyond our long history of representing the marginalized, our track record shows why the extreme left cannot be trusted from the past but not. We represent reconstruction and democratic left that is committed to reforms, in numerous areas we have stood on, yet our party-list group is the only one representing the true nature of the extreme left: we have never committed to working but its own selfish agenda."

Thus, it seems that we Filipinos, in sum, have to with numerous ends with the almost similar sounds of their names.

In the paragraph, the party also received a complaint, seeking to disqualify the party list of Anakbayan, called "Kabataan," along with the party list organizations, of what Akbayan referred to as "extreme left," claiming that they were creations of the CPP-NPA-NDFs or the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front and the New People's Army.

The complaint said the CPP-NPA-NDFA had been trying to use the party-list system to penetrate the legislature, noting that CPP-founding chair Jose Ma. Sison said in a speech way back in 1987 that these organizations were working with the CPP-NPA.

The complaint pointed out that the "extreme left" organizations have not denounced the activities of the NPA, with a number of them still calling for armed revolution."

Question: How does the Comelec rule on the complaint, even as the body goes about screening "false" party-list groups?

Nerds of steel

BREAKTIME

Commodore B. Bernal III

BPI chief named MAP Management Man of the Year

BANK of the Philippine Islands president and CEO Aurelio R. Montinola was named the MAP Management Man of the Year for 2013.

The Management Association of the Philippines honors the award to individuals in the business community or the government who have attained unsurpassed levels of excellence in the practice of management and have contributed to the country's progress.

The distributing of MAP Management Man of The Year" has only been conferred 36 times in the 40-year history of the award.

The criteria for the award include integrity, leadership and management qualities, contribution to nation building and values formation, effective and socially-minded conference of the highest standard of business and management practice.

The BSP cited Montinola for his outstanding stewardship of BPI as a highly successful organization, notably responsible corporate citizen and a behavior of firm known for good governance, contributions to strengthening Philippine professional management practices by exemplifying strong culture of leadership, innovation and customer-centricity in the banking sector, involvement in fostering economic development initiatives through financial services, telecommunications, water infrastructure development, electronics manufacturing and business process outsourcing.

Uniqlo expanding, opening 2nd store in Nov.

By Rita T. Ochoterra

UNIQLO PACKED by lovers does expected sales at its pilot store at SM Mall of Asia, Japanese retail brand Uniqlo is opening more stores to serve a wider market in the Philippines.

Uniqlo is opening its second Philippine store on Nov. 15 in the second floor of SM North EDSA The Block and will open four additional stores before the end of August 2014, said Romeo Dalisay, CEO of Fast Retailing Philippines Inc., in a briefing.

As such, the company is on track with plans to open up to 50 Uniqlo stores in the country over the next years. "That can be achieved," Dalisay said.

The brand will likely strengthen its market base in Metro Manila and later expand to other urban areas in the country, according to demand, he said.

The Japanese brand broke into the local market in June on the second floor of SM Mall of Asia and sales are in fact week was the highest among all Uniqlo stores all over the world for that period, Dalisay said. Revenue at the Philippine store is in fact outperforming Uniqlo re-opened in Asia, he said.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is hoping that Uniqlo's growth would encourage the Japanese company to start making its products in the Philippines.

Trade Undersecretary Cristino L. Pedido said in a statement that Uniqlo's holding company has to initially work with SM Retail Inc. to gain its market in the Philippines. Uniqlo was brought here by Fast Retailing Philippines Inc., a joint venture between Fast Retailing Co. Ltd. and SM Retail Inc.

"We are helping the company grow its business in the Philippines to entice it to open up factories here," Pedido said.

Currently, most of the company's products are produced in its partner manufacturing companies in China and Southeast Asia countries.

With the intense hospitality of Filipinos, the Philippines is seen as a strategic location for the Uniqlo's Asian and global market expansion.

Uniqlo is a brand of Fast Retailing Co. (FRC), a global Japanese retail holding company that designs, manufactures and sells apparel for men, women and children under the brands. The other four are Comptoir des Cotonniers, g.u., Princesse tam.tam and Theory's. FR has more than 1,800 stores globally.

Hanjin delivers 2 vessels to Rio Tinto

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Korean shipbuilding firm Hanjin has delivered two newly built bulk carriers to a multinational client at the company's 300-hectare shipyard in Subic Bay Freeport.

Tank Tae Ho, general manager of the Hanjin Heavy Industries & Construction Co. Ltd.-Philippines Inc. (HHIC-Philippines), said the vessels HJM Dampier and HJM Zheng Hu, which were named after a British explorer and a Chinese explorer, respectively, can be bought to the Trans-Pacific trade routes.

"These two vessels are only the latest that we've built for Rio Tinto. They are one of our best and loyal clients. And we have built ships of high quality for them," Ho told the reporters in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

Ho said HHIC-Philippines delivered the M.V. HJM Caribou, named after a branch in players, to Rio Tinto in August. The 30,19 Gmt., another bulk carriers, was delivered to the same company in May.

HJM Dampier and HJM Zheng Hu, whose home port is London, measure 299.9 meters and can extend 180 million each.

In statement, Jay Kay Ahn, HHIC-Philippines president, commended the successful partnership between his firm and Rio Tinto that resulted in the successful completion of the two vessels.

"This accomplishment cements further affirms our Filipino workforce's competitiveness in the global shipbuilding industry," Ahn said. Tom Albanese, chief executive officer of Rio Tinto, credited HHIC-Philippines' modern facilities and 4D Filipino workers for delivering the vessels on time.

With these two new ships, HHIC-Philippines has already delivered a total of 42 vessels ranging from container ships, oil tankers to bulkcarriers to various international shipping companies since the delivery of its first vessel made in its Subic shipyard in 2008. From 2008 to 2013, HHIC-Philippines posted P1.26 billion worth of export sales, making it a major contributor to the Philippines' export portfolio. Robert Cervantes, Inquirer Central Luzon

PH seen becoming key player in global gaming market

THE CHIEF of state-owned Philippine amusement Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) says the country becoming a key player in asian, national gaming, to account for a fourth of the global gaming market in a few years.

In a statement, Pagcor Chairman Cristino Naguiat Jr. said "compared to Las Vegas, Macau and Singapore, the Philippine gaming industry has a long way to go in terms of revenue potential."

"With the right blend of private sector investment, regulatory stability and appropriate tax rates, I am confident that we believe that a 24-percent slice of the world's gaming pie in a few years' time is a reachable target," he said.

Naguiat said the country's gaming potential in the capital's east but for tourism and gaming was given greater emphasis. Naguiat's statement was made in a speech by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) finance ministers and members of the international investing community.

"The business session on tourism and gaming during the 9th Asean Finance Ministers' Investment Forum (AFIF) was well attended by fund managers, stockbrokers, stock market analysts and representatives of various financial institutions. This indicates the high interest of investors in tourism, specifically gaming—as one of the major engines for growth in the Philippines," said Naguiat.

The Philippines recently hosted the Asean at the Island Shangri-La Hotel in Mong Kong where Naguiat was invited as one of the panelists during the breakout sessions. The forum was sponsored by HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank, and Bloomberg.

The forum promoted the region as an investment haven. Among the high-lighted Asean growth. Areas on tourism and gaming, consumers and energy, real estate, infrastructure and consumer and retail.

The Pagcor session panel for tourism and gaming also included Gerry Shobrai, CEO of Asia Coast Development Ltd. which is developing the 1600 Integrated Resort in Ho Tram, Vietnam; Steven Ozuna, CEO of Bethala Jeybird; Datuk Lee Chwee Hia, president and CEO of Genting Malaysia Berhad; and Eugene Lim, president of Travellers International Hotel Group, which operates Resorts World Manila.

"This forum gave us a chance to present to the members of the investing community the growth areas in the Philippine economy and how a gaming, which is growing in our region to accommodate tourism demand in Asia, even our Department of Tourism has included it in a four pillars under leisure and entertainment," Naguiat said.

"On the macro level, the Asean Pacific is an exciting times for global travel. The Philippines is geographically gifted with respect to distances to the region's main portals travelers, and based on statistics, the country is being visited mainly for leisure and entertainment," Naguiat said.

Naguiat said Pagcor supported Segwa's proposition, noting that based on his company's experience in Resorts World Manila, "we are optimistic that we would do even better with the second property in Entertainment City. This is the reason why we are already planning for the Resorts World Bay Area project."

Four integrated resorts are being built by Pagcor, in partnership with four private proponents at the 186-hectare Entertainment City property. The resorts are expected to provide 5,000 hotel rooms that can accommodate up to 6 million tourists annually, and also offer more than 1 million square meters of shopping, gaming, hotel and entertainment space.

As built developments, Entertainment City is expected to have the capacity to deliver up to 15.6 billion in gaming revenues yearly, as well as create over 100,000 direct and indirect jobs. "We are highly enthusiastic about the project and the impact that it will have on Philippine tourism," Naguiat said.

Naguiat was asked during the forum if local players would be allowed to play in International City following the Segwa's proposal. "We cannot preempt the gaming there," he said. Doris C. Dumlao

Philam Life sees stock market surge in 2013

Explore alternatives to low-yield deposits, insurer urges its clients

By Michelle V. Bunao

THE COUNTRY'S insurance sector is up for another positive year in 2013, with industry-level firms expected to post double-digit growth in income, and with the main 26 life-INS sees as his clue 6,000 mark.

This was according to executives from Philam Life, which projected that firms listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange would post an average income growth of 15 percent next year from the relatively respectable 9 percent anticipated for this year.

The insurer likewise said the industry may hit a new high of at least 6,000 next year on the back of a favorable performance of the economy and usual "normal" mutual public offerings (IPOs) in the pipeline, which could attract investments in equities.

"What investors have been quite excited about in the Philippine stock market is that the economic growth that we have experienced so far appears to be on an upward trajectory," Philam Life Senior Vice President and Equity Fund manager of Philam Life, said yesterday in an interview.

He said growth of the Philippine economy in 2013 may be faster than this year. The government expects the economy to grow between 6 to 6.5 percent in 2012.

Philam Life grew in proportion as it retains, chased its "Money Tree" product, which is an investment-policy with an investment feature. It said Filipino consumers are encouraged to take advantage of the current opportunity from the stock market, whose performance is largely influenced by that of the economy.

Money Tree policyholders, while enjoying insurance protection, also may earn from investments in equities or fixed income securities. Investors may choose to have their money placed in either of the three funds, namely the equity fund, the fixed income fund or the balanced fund, which are all offered under the policy.

"Filipinos have money to spend, especially as consumers continue to grow and as businesses register higher profits. However, there is a big [investor] opportunity loss because people tend to put most of their normal money in banks," Anthony Brandon, vice president for marketing at Philam Life, said in the same briefing.

Officials of the insurance firm noted that there are P4.1 trillion placed as banks deposits earning very low interest rates.

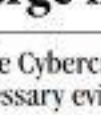
Philam noted regular savings deposits in banks earn an annual interest rate of just 0.125 percent, while time deposits earn 0.25 percent.

Aileen Isley Guevara, senior vice president and chief investment officer at Philam, said interest rates suffered by banks are more lower than the annual inflation rate, which stood at 2.6 percent in September. She said earnings from interest on bank deposits are, therefore, already eaten up by inflation.

"There are a lot of resources out there that are not mobilized. There is so much to do with the sleeping money," Guevara said.

Internet libel in the Cybercrime Law: an unnecessary evil?

POINT OF LAW



Francis Lim

THE CRITICISM on the Cybercrime Law has not waned. Cases have been filed against it. Recently, the Supreme Court issued a 120-day temporary restraining order against its implementation on the basis of allegations of violations of freedom of expression.

The freedom of expression sought to be protected pertains to that exercised by netizens in cyberspace or the internet. This borderless communication tool is now challenged, threatened even, with the criminalization of Internet libel under the Cybercrime Law.

The question: Was it really necessary for the Cybercrime Law to have criminalized Internet libel, or is this an obviously odious crime under the Revised Penal Code?

The Internet era

In an age where Twitter and Facebook are considered primary sources of news and are up to date and reliable sources of communication, even various government agencies, it is unfathomable that any consumer of regulation will be so as to cause to close down the free exchange of ideas in cyberspace. After all, the Internet is in a class of its own when it comes to providing a venue for expression. Soon, print media will be mere resorts as "libel" away from becoming obsolete.

Among its so-called perks is the certain degree of anonymity enjoyed in cyberspace, which facilitates, and encourages unrestrained dialogue, unencumbered by fear of reprisal. As a result, the Internet has become a hub of ideas—from candidate (i.e., during a picture of your food to all your followers) to primitive (i.e., meowing all the potholes you encounter) in order to have those fitted by DPWH (-).

The Internet, however, also became the playground of many cyber bullies—unauthorized posting of private videos, hacking of e-mail and social media accounts, and emotional blogging, for example. In the United States, "people are 'regulated' to content models by means of the harmful statements written about them in Web pages and blogs. In the local scene, some private individuals and government officials find themselves the trending topic in Twitter or other news feed...often for a very negative light. While some may believe that this is just a means of expressing grievances, what of those who become victims of hateful blogs which no longer reflect fact, but become personal attacks on the character of the subject?

Internet libel and the Revised Penal Code

The Revised Penal Code came into effect in 1932, at a time when computers were probably still drawings on a paper, at best. Understandably, the Revised Penal Code could only envision situations in a rapidly growing environment—thus adopting phrases such as "any other similar means" to defining the ways by which a crime may be committed.

Perhaps, such is the case for libel. Under Article 355 of the Revised Penal Code, libel may be committed by means of "writing, printing, lithography, engraving, radio, phonography, painting, theatrical exhibition, cinematographic exhibition, or any similar means."

My own take is that even without an express provision in the Cybercrime Law, Internet libel is punishable under the Revised Penal Code. That is, in 2000, Congress passed the Electronic Commerce Act ("ECA"), which makes electronic documents as the functional equivalent of paper-based documents. Hence, a libelous matter published in electronic form (such as by e-mail or by website) satisfies the requirement of "writing" under the RPC. In fact, in the case, an employee sent an e-mail to various individuals wherein he called his superior a "traitor." The Supreme Court ruled that the said statement constitutes libel—the e-mail was "in writing" and upheld the employee's dismissal for having made libelous statement. (See Tamola v. Ebdalin, G.R. No. 181965, 9 February 2010). Second, the phrase "any other medium" under Article 355 of the Revised Penal Code is broad enough to cover publication in electronic form. Third, aside from the formula case mentioned above, there is another Supreme Court case that recognizes libelous matters published in electronic form. (See Bonifacio v. Regional Trial Court of Makati City, G.R. No. 184800, 5 May 2010). Fourth, there is a catch-all clause in the Cybercrime Law—although not without its own share of controversy, to the effect that any crime punishable under the Revised Penal Code committed through the use of the computer or system or similar means in the future, is likewise, punishable under the Act.

So, these things seem to be manifest. There are people who share the view that the Revised Penal Code is unable to fill in all the gaps created by the technological leap from snail mail to e-mail. They argue that the Revised Penal Code, in penalizing the crime of libel, did not intend to include those committed through computers and the Internet which were still being developed in 1932.

Perhaps, such example is the insolence one cited above where the accused were charged with publishing libelous articles in their websites, before the City Prosecutors' Office of Makati. The Makati City Prosecutor found probable cause for libel against them. The Department of Justice reversed the finding, reasoning out that the crime of "Internet libel" was non-existent, hence, the accused could not be charged with libel under Article 353 of the RPC.

In addition, some say that the very Supreme Court decisions cited above do not expressly rule that there is a crime of cyber or Internet libel. Indeed, in existence or non-existence was not squarely at issue in those cases. The recognition pertains of the nature of what we have to call—since Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago herself does not, therefore, the High Court may rule in the future that there is exactly no crime of Internet libel.

Ensuring how the legal mind works, the issue will be raised time and again in the future in defense of Internet libel cases filed before the courts.

Thus, there seems to be wisdom in expressly including Internet libel under the Cybercrime Law in order to remove any doubt as to the existence of the crime.

The question is still Congress exclude Internet libel from the Cybercrime Law for being an unnecessary evil? Or, instead of shooting it down, should Congress just improve it to address the various issues raised against it?

Abstract any comment to feedback@

(The author is also a managing partner and head of the Corporate and Special Projects Department of the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz Law Offices and may be reached at feedback@)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)
DIVISION OF CAVITE
Trece Martires City

INVITATION TO BID for
CY 2012 PhilGEPS (SALES ANNUAL PROJECT)
CLUSTER III (LAY)

1. The Department of Education – Division of Cavite intends to apply the sum of for the Supply of Procurement Project (PhilGEPS Sales Annual Project) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Supply of Procurement Project (PhilGEPS Sales Annual Project).
2. The Department of Education – Division of Cavite now invites bids for the Procurement of Supply of Procurement of PhilGEPS Management Committee (PhilGEPS) Sales Annual Project (PhilGEPS Sales Annual Project). Bidders should have completed, within the last two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in RA 9184 and its IRR.
4. Interested bidders shall submit their letter of intent within the first seven days from the date of advertisement of the said project at the PhilGEPS website. Only bidders who have submitted their letter of intent shall be allowed during the 7 days bidding and submission of their letter of intent. A submitted or bidder needs a representative to represent in that behalf they must submit a duly authorized letter of intent to the Bids and Awards Committee.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address and upon payment of the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents, pursuant to the latest Guidelines issued by the GPPB.
6. The Department of Education – Division of Cavite will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on October 29, 2012, 10:30 a.m. at the Library Hall, Department of Education – Division of Cavite, Governor's Drive, Trece Martires City which shall be open to all interested parties.
7. Bids must be delivered to the BAC Secretariat/Bids Acceptance Committee on or before November 12, 2012, 10:30 a.m. at the Library Hall, Department of Education – Division of Cavite, Governor's Drive, Trece Martires City. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
8. The Department of Education – Division of Cavite reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
9. For further information, please refer to:
ARMANDO A. SUMINGUIT, Administrative Officer II
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent
Department of Education – Division of Cavite
Trece Martires City, Cavite 4109
Telefax No. (046) 419-0013

(Sgd.) DR. ARMANDO A. FORTES, JR.
Bids and Awards Committee Chairman

(PDI – Nov. 18, 2012)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO BID
for PAF Acquisition of Twenty-One (21)
Refurbished UH-1 Helicopters

1. The Department of National Defense through the Philippine Air Force (PAF) intends to apply the sum of Two Billion Pesos (P2,000,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the PAF Acquisition of Twenty-One (21) Refurbished UH-1 Helicopters. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.
2. The DND-PAF now invites bids for the above Contract. Delivery of the Refurbished UH-1 Helicopters is required within 12 months from the effectivity date of the Contract. Bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in RA 9184 and its IRR.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Philippine Standard Time).
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and upon payment of the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents, pursuant to the latest Guidelines issued by the GPPB.
6. The DND-PAF will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 06 November 2012 (10:00 a.m. at DND-PAF Conference Room) which shall be open to all interested bidders. Caution: Only those who shall have purchased the Bidding Documents shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bid Conference.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 7:00 a.m. on 20 November 2012. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
8. The opening shall be at 8:00 a.m. on 20 November 2012 at the Conference Room, Headquarters Philippine Air Force, Col. Ernesto Ermita Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are encouraged to attend the opening but only the bidders with the lowest calculated bid, or the bidders with the lowest calculated responsive bid, may participate in the subsequent negotiation.
9. The DND-PAF reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:
[illegible]
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Philippine Air Force
Col. Ernesto Ermita Building
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax No. (632) 911-6041

(Sgd.) [illegible]
Chairman, BAC-DND-PAF

(PDI – Oct. 25, 2012)

Philex Petroleum posts 9-month loss

By Amy R. Remo

PHILEX Petroleum Corp., led by businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan, posted a net loss of P9.52 million in the first nine months of 2012, a reversal of the P1.9-billion net income it posted during the same period last year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Philex Petroleum explained the net loss was due mainly to the lower petroleum revenues from Service Contract 14 Block C-1 in the Cadlao oil field off Palawan, where it is the sole operator and limited interest holder of 60.48 percent through its majority stake in Forum Energy Plc.

The lower petroleum revenues can be traced to the shutdown of the Cadlao production starting November last year up to April this year to make way for refurbishments and equipment upgrades.

During the first three quarters of the year, Philex Petroleum posted a 68-percent decline in total revenues to P334.4 million from P987 million a year ago. Of this amount, P326 million came from petroleum sales by Forum Energy, while the remaining P8.4 million was generated from the remaining P10 million-net gas interest from the Malampaya gas field and Energy and Mining Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Philex Petroleum.

Forum Energy is the coal arm of Philex Petroleum, which holds coal operating contract (COC) No. 130 covering prospective blocks in Zamboanga Sibugay.

"While our coal is located within the Cadlao petroleum following the floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) facility refurbishment and monitoring upgrade, we continue to be concerned as to the short-term viability of our coal business having regard to falling regional coal prices," noted Philex Petroleum Chairman and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan.

For the second quarter alone, Philex Petroleum posted a 41 percent hike in its revenues to P80.8 million from P56.9 million in the same period last year. Net loss also widened to P12.26 million during the April-June period from P9.86 million a year ago.

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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LOANS & MORTGAGES

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 827 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila
Tel: 310-0322 • Fax: (632) 310-0321 • E-mail: ncr@dole.gov.ph

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporations/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
SHELL SHARED SERVICES (MEA) BV 21/F Solaris One Bldg., C3 Dona Rosa St., Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Apolinario Bel Filipino	Team Manager - Labs
PHILIPPINE AIR W CORPORATION MF Commercial Bldg., 420 Aguirre St., Barangka, Mandaluyong City	Kyung Lim Chinese	Project Consultant
ENGINEERING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES 2nd Flr., Pearl of the Orient Tower, 1240 Roxas Blvd., Brgy. 667 Zone 073, Ermita, Manila	Qiuhua Cai Chinese	Call Agent
ENGINEERING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES 2nd Flr., Pearl of the Orient Tower, 1240 Roxas Blvd., Brgy. 667 Zone 073, Ermita, Manila	Yu-Ping Tsai Taiwanese	Call Agent
SANTEK PHILS. INC. 21st Flr., Ayala Avenue Tower 1, Ayala Blvd., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Myoung Duck Son Korean	Marketing Manager
LEXINTON CONTRACTORS (ASIA) LIMITED 12F L's Lease Bldg., 8TG Kyoto cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City	Stephen Charles British	Planning Manager
YOUNG MARINE PRODUCTS, INC. MRB 3, Compan St., San Gen, Pandacan City	Hsiang Yun Ho Taiwanese	Survey Technician
JHANDAR TRADING CORP. CCP Complex Road St., Cainta City	Harpreet Singh Indian	CANCEL
TRAILS CROWN TRAVEL AND TOURS 2nd & Eight Lane Bldg., Jupiter Road, San Juan City	Beth Helen Hsiung Taiwanese	Operation Manager
BEST FOODS UNLIMITED, INC. (FORMERLY KFC BEST FOODS 5th Avenue St., Cainta City	Zhiqiang Wu Chinese	Executive Chef
SHARONE TAIWOON PHILIPPINES, INC. 2nd Flr., Ayala Cross Center Tower Bldg., 5th Ave. cor. 25th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Ashok Kiran Bulbir Limbachi Canadian	Drill Specialist
PHILIPPINE AIR W CORPORATION MF Commercial Bldg., 420 Aguirre St., Barangka, Mandaluyong City	Fengyun Li Chinese	Project Consultant
HONGKONG MASTER COOK CORPORATION Lot 3-4 Buendia Blvd., Pasay City	Kwok Kwong Chi Kwok Chinese	Chief Cook
D-TECH LIMITED 26/F Technopro Tower, ROBC Plaza, San Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Ayala Ave., Makati City	Grigore Dumitriu Ionel Israeli	Chief Technical Officer
STELLENT SERVICES CORPORATION 15/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Hsiang Ngan Jack Ngyuen Vietnamese	Customer Service Officer
STELLENT SERVICES CORPORATION 15/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Thai Quan Hoang Vietnamese	Customer Service Officer
SAMSUNG (SAMSUNG, INC.) 12F SYS Bldg., 1653 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City	Anna Pearl Ajoc Indian	Marketing Assistant
PACIFIC SEA BPO SERVICES, INC. 26/F Technopro Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Prabhanjan Chakrabortyam Thai	Data Analyst Officer
PACIFIC SEA BPO SERVICES, INC. 26/F Technopro Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Thu Trang Nguyen Vietnamese	Data Analyst Officer
PACIFIC SEA BPO SERVICES, INC. 26/F Technopro Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jingze Chi Chinese	Data Analyst Officer
PACIFIC SEA BPO SERVICES, INC. 26/F Technopro Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Nghuyen Jia Nguyen Thai	Data Analyst Officer

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
PACIFIC SEA BPO SERVICES, INC. 26/F Technopro Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yun Chen Chinese	Data Analyst Officer
PACIFIC SEA BPO SERVICES, INC. 26/F Technopro Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yuhan Zhu Chinese	Data Analyst Officer
PACIFIC SEA BPO SERVICES, INC. 26/F Technopro Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Phuong Dung Le Vietnamese	Data Analyst Officer
STELLENT SERVICES CORPORATION 15/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Regina Indonesian	Customer Service Officer/B Counseling
FIRE TECHGS PHILS. INC. Unit 1901 Brg. E. Ortigas Home Depot Complex 1, Ortigas cor. Meralco Ave., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Jehoon Lee Korean	Consultant
PACIFIC SEA BPO SERVICES, INC. 26/F Technopro Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hoai Thi Minh Le Vietnamese	Data Analyst Officer
AVON COSMETICS, INC. 6/F Cemex Plaza, Makati Ave., Makati City	Susan Reeder Canadian	Executive Director Commercial Marketing
PROMATE/PROJECT SUPERB FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC. 28/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	William David Bailey British	Consultant
SUREPRO SOLUTIONS, INC. 7/F Unit C-1 DFL Bldg., 120-21 Paseo de Roxas St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Victoria Florence Marie Sandromore French	Marketing Supervisor
KALIMAN GENERAL WORK, INC. Mindanao St., San Antonio Village, Makati City	Ahsan Ahsan Shabab Indian	Store Manager
KORNG ELECTRIC VEHICLE MANUFACTURING INC. 107 P. Jacinto St., Bagumbayan, Caloocan City	Chaohong Yang Chinese	Chief Technician
TREND MICRO INCORPORATED - PHILIPPINE BRANCH 38th Tower 2, The Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Laurence Ilic American	Sr. Trainer
NARUSEN ENTERPRISES, INC. Units 101-102 La Fuerza Plaza 1, 2241 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Yamato Nobuyoshi Japanese	General Manager
PNT LENDING INVESTORS CORPORATION No. 12 Congressional Ave., Quezon City	Gurmej Singh Indian	Collector
INDOR CONSULTING FOR INC. 3-04-05 Cebu Cebelink Bldg., A.S. Fortuna St., Brgy. 004, Banilad, Mandaue City	Sung Hun Korean	Manager
STELLENT SERVICES CORPORATION 15/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Nguyen My Hanh Pham Vietnamese	Customer Service Officer
RAPID BPO PHILIPPINES LTD. INC. 11 Colonial Centre, Elm Centre cor. EDSA and Granite Ave., Brgy. Pinagkuan, Quezon City	Rakesh Kumar Bhatia Indian	Branch Manager
CCT CONSTRUCTORS CORPORATION 28F Philam Bldg., 106 Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Junji Kurokawa Japanese	Assistant Project Manager
CAPLEDON CAPITAL LIMITED 20/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Aurilio Bagus Prasetio Indonesian	Bahasa Indonesia language Customer Service Officer

If you have any other information relative to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN C. MONTEJO
Regional Director

"Some of these positions are seasonal and employment opportunities may be limited. Visit the Employment Service Office (ESO) or log on to www.poea.gov.ph

NCR-10-10-2012

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NUTRITION COUNCIL
PAMBANSANG SANGGUNIAN SA KAGUTOM
NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL

NNC Building, 2332 Chino Roces Avenue Extension
Taguig City, Philippines

BIDDERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Nutrition Council (NNC) is in need of the following:

As of 19 October 2012

TWO (2) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V (ADMIN-CO-PERSONNEL SECTOR) (SALARY GRADE 18) (CSC APPROVED ITEMS)
ONE (1) ADMIN. OFFICER III (SALARY GRADE 11) (CSC APPROVED ITEM)

Interested applicants may submit application letters addressed to Assistant Secretary of Health Maria Esmeralda C. Flores, CESO III, Executive Director III of the National Nutrition Council, 2332 Chino Roces Avenue Ext., Taguig City, Philippines or may send their application letters and resumes/personal data sheets (PDS) to employment_nnc@yahoo.com with the subject line "Application for (position title) and respective office applied for."

Deadline of application is on 29 October 2012, 5:00 PM only. Only shortlisted applicants will be called for testing and interview.

For further information, please contact Ms. Cleora M. Fernandez, Officer-In-Charge, Administrative Division, Tel. No. +63 (2) 816-4220.

(Sgd.) CARLOS ANGELO ESTA-BATALLONES
Chief, Personnel Selection Board

BILIRAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
BILECO
Naharlang, Biliran, Biliran Province (053)
Telephone Nos. (053) 500-8124 to 42
Telefax No. (053) 500-8125
E-mail: bilecoinc@yahoo.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS
ITB NO. BILECO-MAR-SBDP 2012-1000

The Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BILECO) invites interested parties who are qualified to bid for the Construction of Distribution Substation Level to the 15 MVA/69 kV, 69/13.8 kV Main Transformer with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of Php 13,000,000.00 as submitted under Board Resolution No. 09-Series of 2012 as confirmed by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) pursuant to R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Pre-Qualification of Bidders will be conducted on November 13 to 19, 2012. Bid documents shall be issued only to eligible Bidders on November 13 to 16, 2012 upon payment of a non-refundable Fee of Twelve Thousand Pesos (Php 12,000.00) to the Treasurer of BILECO and Agenda Committee (BAC). Pre-Bid Conference will be held at BILECO MPB Conference Room, Biliran on November 20, 2012 (10:00 a.m.). Bid Opening will be conducted on November 26, 2012 (10:00 a.m.) at BILECO MPB Conference Room, Biliran.

Bid documents of Bidder shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "PASS/FAIL" criteria. All procedures relative to the eligibility screening, competitive bidding, and award of Contract shall be in accordance with RA 9184 Rules, Sec. 36. No bid security shall be required for the procurement of the contract. The award of the Bidder's offer to the Contract per Lot/Item will be based on the lowest calculated responsive bid.

BILECO reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, declare a failure of bidding and/or to waive any irregularities therein, and/or to make an award to Bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the electric cooperative.

A letter of protest by the duly authorized representative of the bidding or pre-qualification shall be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee during the Pre-qualification/Bidding proper. Only companies shall be evaluated for the subsequent pre-bid bidding activities with telephone number (053) 500-8124 and/or (053) 500-8125, facsimile number (053) 500-8134 and email address bileciinc@yahoo.com.

(Sgd.) HERMOGENIA GUIDAN, R.E.E.
BAC Chairman
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Noted:

(Sgd.) MARILOU B. VERA
General Manager/CEO

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classified Advertising Hotlines:

Head Office-Makati
Trunkline 897-6808 loc. 514, 516 & 343
• Telefax 897-8425 • 899-4427

Alabang Provincial Branch
(02) 553-7946, 553-794
• Telefax (02) 553-8094

Cubao, Quezon City Branch
421-0343 • 421-1428 • Telefax 912-9010

Shaw Boulevard, Pasig Branch
431-0442 • 389-4038 • Telefax 896-3943

South Harbour, Manila Branch
Direct Line 528-0213
Trunkline 523-5570 loc. 115 or 116 • Fax 528-0234

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unite for children

If you are a responsible and established professional and would like to be invited to bidding opportunities for children, the world's leading children's rights organization, email the following information to:

RE-ADVERTISED

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

"INSTITUTIONAL CONTRACTOR"

to undertake the:

"Survey to collect Baseline Information in UNICEF focused LGUs in Urban Cities"

For interested CONTRACTORS, please log on to UNICEF website http://www.unicef.org/philippines/index.html, request@unicef.org.ph to the RFP and the "Terms of Reference". For queries, please email: bidsupply@unicef.org.ph; procurement@unicef.org.ph for the electronic copy of the TOR or call 528-9260 to 69 (UNICEF). Deadline for proposal submission is 2 November 2012.

CLASSIFIEDS More Classified Ads

Department of National Defense.....B4
Deped Cavite.....B4

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in ME will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes he ME will never die."
John 11:25-26

Carmencita Cadeliña Villaverde

peacefully joined her beloved husband, Manuel L. Villaverde, in the Kingdom of our Lord on October 19, 2012 at the age of 82.

Her loving children, Mario and Melissa, Millard, Mala and Milo, and grandchildren Mariel and Maris, and Clarisse and Januel, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family home, 111 V. Cadeliña St. corner Quezon Ave. Luchan, Quezon.

Interment will be on October 27, 2012, Saturday, at the Luchan Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 pm mass.

Segundina Aventajado Galvez

has joined our Creator on October 23, 2012 at the age of 90.

Her remains lie in state at Philippians Chapel, Fr. Peter Quezon Avenue, Quezon City and body will be transferred to St. Peter Eastview Dmy on Saturday, October 27, 2012. Interment will be at Balungao, Lepto.

Her daughters: Chit Galvez-Alcober and children, Jovy Galvez-Carreon, Lina Galvez-Mangia and children, and Rudolf Galvez, requests the presence of her relatives and friends for the eternal repose of her soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

JOSE "NENE" SALVERON CASTILLO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 19, 2012 at the age of 70.

His family requests the presence of his relatives and friends in mourning until October 24, 2012 at Immaculate Chapel, St. Peter Chapels Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City and during the procession on October 25, 2012, 5:00 pm at St. Peter Commonwealth-Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. May Eternal Peace be granted unto his soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

CAPTAIN ROLANDO TONGSON GARCIA PN (GSC) Ret.

JULY 30, 1943-OCTOBER 18, 2012
PMA CLASS 1968
MAPA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS 1960

HAS PEACEFULLY JOINED HIS CREATOR AND HIS WIFE **EMMA**.

HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS CHILDREN **ABIGAIL; MICHAEL & ARVI PALUGOD, RONALD, PAMELA & CARL DIESMOJO** AND **IAN & RONA ESTEBAN**; GRANDCHILDREN **JULIAN, ANIKKA & RAELEY**; BROTHERS **ARTHUR S. JULIET, JULIUS S EMMY**; SISTER (†)**EVELYN A** (†)**DANNY DELA CRUZ**, NIECES, NEPHEWS, COUSINS AND MANY WONDERFUL SUPPORTIVE FRIENDS REQUEST THE PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

HIS REMAINS LIE IN STATE AT LA BIEN MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC., MALIGO II, CITY OF BACOOR, CAVITE. NECROLOGICAL SERVICES ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2012 AT 7:00 PM.

INTERMENT AT MANILA MEMORIAL PARK, CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE FOLLOWING THE 10:00 A.M. MASS AT PAROKYA NG MABUTING PASTOL, PALA-PALA, CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE, ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2012.

CLASSIFIEDS

for those who held your hand. Who cried with you or calmed you, for those who gave their prayers..

Send your message of thanks.

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Head Office: 896-6161 (Telefax); 896-6162; 896-6166 loc. 516 & 896-6165;
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Makati: 893-5378; 811-4820; 811-4861
Manila: 525-0870 loc. 115 or 116; 526-4253
Store: 401-0442; 359-4438; 895-3941 (Telefax)

INQUIRER

JOESUE LIZADA GABANA

has joined our Creator on October 14, 2012 at the age of 33.

His remains lie in state at John Chapel, St. Peter Chapels Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, until October 26, 2012. Interment will be on October 27, 2012, 1:00 pm at Hinulugang Pilipino. His family requests the presence of his relatives and friends for the eternal repose of his soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Marita Julia A. Ding

died in the Grace of our Lord on October 21, 2012 at the age of 59.

Her family requests the presence of her relatives and friends in mourning until today, October 23, 2012 at Lolo Chapel, St. Peter Chapels, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City and during the funeral on October 24, 2012, 10:00 am at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina. May Eternal Peace be granted unto her soul.

Manuel R. Manaligod

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 21, 2012 at the age of 82.

His loving wife **MINA**; sister **MINY**; brother **PITO**; children **RAUL** and **CHUCHAY, BEN** and **AMY, MARICRIS, JUN** and **TECRIC, RAMON, NATES, RICO** and **ADERLEY**; and **CHIC**; grandchildren **MIKKY, MARTIN, MAKEL JOEN, DIEGO, BENNY, NEKA, RIA,** and **MAIA,** request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sanctuarium Chapel Gladiolus (201), Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday at 3:00, October 27, 2012 at Hinulugang Pilipino.

So deeply loved, and sorely missed... on the 1st Death Anniversary of

EXPERANCIA FUENTES RONQUILLO

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

Holy Family Parish, San Andres	8:30AM
San Antonio de Padua Parish, Singalong	6:00AM
St. Pius X Parish, Greenmeadows	6:00AM
Visitation Parish, Pasig	6:30AM
San Agustin Church, Intramuros	6:45AM
Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Quezon City	7:00AM
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Makati	7:00AM
St. Peter the Apostle Parish, San Jose del Monte	8:30AM
San Fernando de Dilao Parish, Paco	8:30AM
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Quezon City	8:30AM
Our Lady of Mediatrix Parish, Quezon City	7:30AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Quezon City	8:00AM
San Vicente de Paul Parish, Pasig	6:00AM
Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate	6:00AM
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Marikina	6:00AM

The passing years will not change how much she is loved and missed.

Please remember EXPERANCIA in your prayers.

LT. COL. EDGARDO L. MALMONTE

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 22, 2012 at the age of 54.

His remains lie in state at Memorial of Lihunan ng mga Bayani.

Interment will be on October 30, 2012 10:00 a.m. at Lihunan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City.

His family requests the prayers of his relatives and friends for the eternal repose of his soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

PACITA MANIQUIS REYES

has joined our Creator on October 18, 2012 at the age of 77.

Her remains lie in state at St. Peter Chapels Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 26, 2012, 10:30 a.m. at Hinulugang Pilipino.

Her family requests the prayers of her relatives and friends for the eternal repose of her soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always call the...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (ID)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEM • FREE CUT DESIGN

"There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."
2 Timothy 4:8

INVITATION TO BID
Security Services CY 2013 and Foodstuff & Non Perishable Goods for the 1st Quarter of 2013

1. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) - Field Office XI, through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) intends to apply for the following projects being the approved budget for the Contract (ABC) to prospective bidder for CY2013 to CY2014, thereby expressed as follows:

Item No.	Description	Product Bid. No.	Approved Budget for the Contract	Price of Bid Documents	Delivery Period
1	Security Services	2013-001	Php 1,700,000.00	Php 1,000.00	CY 2013
2	Procurement of Non-Perishable Goods and Foodstuff (Lot 1 Canned Goods, Lot 2 Dairy Cubs for the 1st Quarter of 2013	2013-002	2,000,000.00	1,000.00	30 Calendar Days upon receipt of NTP

2. Two (2)Bids/Field Office XI will open orders bids for Security Services CY 2013 and Foodstuff and Non Perishable Goods of CY2013 Interim Services/Clients for the 1st Quarter of 2013 Procurement Activities of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office XI, Regional Haus Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Davao City.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to associations or cooperatives duly registered with the Philippine government under relevant laws, to perform the contract, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act No. 138.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **BAC Secretariat Office, 4th Floor Regional Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Davao City** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours except holidays.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on October 10, 2013 to October 16, 2013 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00)** and **Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00)** for the Letter of Intent.

6. The Provincial Government of Dinagat Islands reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

7. For further information, please refer to:

CHARITY CLOYD C. REPOLLO II
Chairman
BAC Office
Provincial Government Compound, Poblacion I, City
518-4031
bacdinagatislands@gmail.com

(Sgd.) JOEL B. SABELLANO, JR., DVM
BAC Chairman

(PIA - Sur, 10, 2013)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Dinagat Islands
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Provincial Capitol, Poblacion City

INVITATION TO BID FOR
Procurement of Various Medical and Laboratory Equipment
Lot 1 to Lot 27

1. The Provincial Government of Dinagat Islands thru Assistant Governor Ruperto Ecleo Jr. Chairman of Provincial Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bids for the supply of Eighty-Million Pesos (Php80, 000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), for the Procurement of Various Medical and Laboratory Equipment Lot 1 to Lot 27 as mentioned in Section V of this BAC Bid as automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The **Provincial Government of Dinagat Islands** now invites bids for the **Procurement of Various Medical and Laboratory Equipment Lot 1 to Lot 27**. Delivery of the Goods is required thirty (30) calendar days. Bidders should have completed within **Five (5) years** from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II (Instructions to Bidders).

3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act No. 138.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **BAC Secretariat Office, 4th Floor Regional Building, Capitol Compound, Poblacion I, City** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours except holidays.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on October 10, 2013 to October 16, 2013 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00)** and **Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00)** for the Letter of Intent.

5. The Provincial Government of Dinagat Islands reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

6. For further information, please refer to:

CHARITY CLOYD C. REPOLLO II
Chairman
BAC Office
Provincial Government Compound, Poblacion I, City
518-4031
bacdinagatislands@gmail.com

(Sgd.) JOEL B. SABELLANO, JR., DVM
BAC Chairman

(PIA - Sur, 10, 2013)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

Project Name:	Supply and Delivery of One (1) Lot Geology Rock Logging and Rotary Air Blast (RAB) Management Software Refer Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs) for Detailed Specifications for the Complete Details
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):	Philippine Pesos Two Million Seven Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five Pesos (PHP2,794,775.00) or its Foreign Currency Equivalent
Bid Documents Fee:	Non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (PHP5,000.00) for Philippine Bidders, inclusive of all applicable taxes and shipping cost
Project Duration:	Delivery, Installation and Training shall be within Sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed
Source of Funds:	Corporate Budget for the contract of PNOC Oil Energy Study Team Mr. Marvin Mendoza, PNOC - EDC Compound, Pasig

Prospective bidders should have previously completed, within the past five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility enumerated in the Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs). Interested bidders may obtain further information from PNOC Exploration Corporation and inspect the Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs) at the address given below during office hours.

A complete set of Philippine Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written request and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs) in the amount of Philippine Pesos Five Thousand (PHP5,000.00) for Philippine Bidders, inclusive of all applicable taxes and shipping cost. The non-refundable fee for the Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs) may be paid in person at the cashier's office of PNOC Exploration Corporation or through a bank manager's/cashier's check issued in favor of PNOC Exploration Corporation. Foreign bidders may pay the non-refundable fee for the Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs) in their respective currency based on the prevailing exchange rate.

It is the policy of PNOC Exploration Corporation to afford all bidders from eligible countries equal access to procurement opportunities. Bidders are required to disclose any and all contracts they have with the employees of PNOC Exploration Corporation and its subsidiaries.

The Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs) shall be received by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the address given below on or before 10:00 A.M. of October 31, 2013. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given below immediately after the deadline for the submission of bids.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability, and to waive any defect therein, consistent with the objectives of the Corporation and without diminishing the rights of the Corporation.

For further information, please contact:

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
c/o Ms. Rachel P. Bernardo of Ms. Erica J. Ala
PNOC - EDC Compound, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. Nos. (02) 478-0161 to 70 loc. 2202 or 2203
Email: rpb@pnoc.ph; ejala@pnoc.ph

PNOC-EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to waive the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. PNOC-EC assumes no responsibility whatsoever in cases/cases of indefinite delays for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Atty. Joseph Gene A. Cuello
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PNOC-EC Sun, 6, 10, 2013)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE
Surigao City
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO BID
(Project No. 2013-001)

1. The Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte, through the General Fund for CY 2013, intends to apply the sum of Two Million Five Hundred Thirteen Thousand Pesos (P2,513,000.00) being the approximate budget for the contract (ABC), to payments under the contract for the following: "Supply and Delivery of Buildings" - Any Kind to include all the labor and materials incidental.

Lot Items	Unit of Issue	Qty.	DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget for the Contract
Lot 1 - Stainless Steel Water Tank	Lot	1	Stainless Steel Tank, 10 Cubic Meters Capacity, with Accessories	P 750,000
Lot 2 - Portable Buildings	Lot	1	Portable Buildings, 6m x 12m, Complete with Accessories	P 1,763,000
Lot 3 - Portable Toilet	Lot	1	Portable Toilet with Septic Tank, Complete with Accessories	P 50,000

2. The Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte now invites bids for the said project. Delivery of the Goods is required within Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within the Period of Five (5) years prior to the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the bidding documents, particularly in Section II (Instructions to Bidders).

3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act No. 138.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written request and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) for Lot 1 and Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for Lot 2 and Lot 3. The non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents may be paid in person at the cashier's office of the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte or through a bank manager's/cashier's check issued in favor of the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte.

6. The Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

7. For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. ANTONIO A. ARRIOLA, JR.
Provincial Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PIA - Sur, 10, 2013)

INVITATION TO BID
Construction of Siliu University Health and Citizens College of Medicine Building (BAC-IB-2013-10-1-018)

1. The Siliu University, through the fund CY 2013 of Siliu University Health and Citizens College of Medicine Building (BAC-IB-2013-10-1-018) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in payments under the contract for Construction of Siliu University Health and Citizens College of Medicine Building (BAC-IB-2013-10-1-018).

2. The Siliu University now invites contractors with valid PCAB license and registration for small projects, and with the following minimum specific contractor's experience requirements: (a) Completed a contract similar to the Construction of Siliu University Health and Citizens College of Medicine Building, Complexity of the Project is equal to or more than 50% of the ABC adjusted to current price using the National Statistics Office consumer price index; (b) Must have at least 50% experience on the same type of contract with those being bidded as indicated in the Contractor's Financial Statement.

3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

4. Interested bidders may obtain information from their University through the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on October 10, 2013 upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00) for Lot 1 and Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for Lot 2 and Lot 3. The non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents may be paid in person at the cashier's office of the Siliu University or through a bank manager's/cashier's check issued in favor of the Siliu University.

6. The Siliu University reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

7. For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. ANTONIO A. ARRIOLA, JR.
Provincial Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PIA - Sur, 10, 2013)

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
"Your Companion in Lifes Pivotal Moments"

INVITATION TO BID

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc (SUKELCO) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites potential and accredited bidders to apply for eligibility and if subsequently line-eligible, to bid for the following:

1. Supply of Labor and Materials for 3rd Batch SEP 2012 Line Extension Projects in Isulan and Lebak in Sultan Kudarat with an approved Budget Cost of Php40,396,763.23;
2. Supply of Various Goods Wiring Materials for the 2nd Batch SEP 2012 Projects with an Approved Budget Cost of Php1,268,000.00;
3. Supply and Delivery of One (1) unit Brand New Dump Truck with Accessories, Brand "Hino Dutro" with 6 cubic meter and with Hiab 10ton crane;
4. Supply of various spare parts specifications: 4 Cylinder 2000, 2 Stroke per Cylinder, 3 Speed Manual 150 KW, Operation Study with Window Grill and Canvas Frame.

Details will be discussed during a **Pre-Bid Conference on October 16, 2013, 10:00 A.M.** at the SUKELCO Board Room, Isulan. Bidding Forum shall be on **November 7, 2013, 10:00 A.M.** at the SUKELCO Board Room.

For interested suppliers, bid packages are available at SUKELCO, details list of requirements for accreditation form Bills 1, Feedback of bids submitted must be accompanied with a bid security in cash or cheque in the amount equivalent to 2.0% of the bid proposal. **Bidders to the Line Extension Projects must have an accredited PNAB license. For further inquiries, please contact Engr. Bulanadi at 0915 707 9410 or email bac@sukelco.com.ph.**

SUKELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to award any more deserving or meritorious bid and to cancel such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the cooperative.

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **EDGAR M. CATINGUB, MD**
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **DEMETRIO S. JOSEL, PhD**
General Manager

(PIA - Sur, 8, 9, 10, 2013)

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Sasmuan, Pampanga

INVITATION TO BID
(2013-09)

Pampanga II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PELCO) with office address in San Nicolas, Sasmuan, Pampanga 2022 invites prospective contractors for the implementation of the preliminary electrification project within its franchise area in Pampanga.

Project identification:

SUB-PROJECT NO.	NO. OF CONSUMERS		Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)		
	Residential	Commercial	Residential	Commercial	Total
Barangay Lourdes, San Antonio, Sasmuan	1,100	100	P 1,000,000.00	P 100,000.00	P 1,100,000.00

Interested parties are required to submit the following checklist of qualification requirements: (a) Mayor's / Business Permit; (b) Registration from BIR, DTI and SEC; (c) Valid PCAB License; (d) Latest Audited Financial Statements; (e) Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC); (f) Omnibus Sworn Statement (OSS) and (g) Income Tax Return. Accreditation is subject to a non-refundable fee of Php2,000.00. Original copies of requirements/documents must be presented for proper authentication.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid bond/bidder in cash, manager's or cashier's check equivalent to two percent (2%) of the ABC in the form of CPO/bid bond.

Submission of qualification requirements – October 21- November 8, 2013
Sale and Time of Bidding – November 13, 2013 at 10:00 A.M. (PREBID)/Bidding Venue – 4th Flr. in Main Office Boardroom, San Nicolas, Sasmuan, Pampanga

Bid documents may be obtained from the Secretariat of the Committee upon payment of a non-refundable fee/fees to Secretary with contact number (045) 435-00-41 / 0905-845-2878.

Bidders are encouraged to submit their bids on time.

Only accredited bidders who secured bid documents and paid the bidding price/fee shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

PELCO II MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE FORMALITIES THEREIN AND ACCEPTS BIDS DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) **JOHN TERRY M. CATABIAN**
PELCO Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ANNABEL T. SUMAMPAN**
General Manager

(PIA - Sur, 8, 9, 10, 2013)

AGUSAN DEL NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Km. 3 C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City
Tel. Nos. (085) 341-1645 / 342-8196 Fax No. (085) 342-8041
E-mail: anecoinc@info@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO BID

The Agusan del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ANECO) invites interested eligible contractors/consultants to bid for the following projects:

Project Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Non-Refundable Fee
Supply of Labor and Materials for Electrification Projects of Barangays (Purok)	P35,130,166.28	P15,000.00
Acquisition of Five (5) Units Maintenance Utility Trucks with Wood Boxes (Dropside)	7,400,000.00	5,000.00

The opening of bids shall be conducted during the pre-bid conference on November 7, 2013 at 2:00 P.M. at ANECO Main Office Conference Room.

Bidding documents/bidders issued to qualified bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. Contractor offers must be accompanied by a Cash / Manager's Check equivalent to 2% of the total bid offered.

ANECO Inc. hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor deficiency in the bids and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Cooperative.

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO L. RAMOCO**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(Sgd.) **HERACIO T. DANTOS**
Operation Manager

(PIA - Sur, 8, 9, 10, 2013)

BUSINESS

SC says Angat power plant sale legal

PSALM readies turnover of facility to Korean firm

By Amy R. Remo

THE SUPREME Court has declared as valid and legal the government's sale of the 246-megawatt Angat hydroelectric power plant in Bulacan to Korea Water Resources Corp. (K-Water), the leading water resources and power firm in South Korea.

International Industries Inc., president of state-run Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., confirmed in a text message that a copy of the high court decision has been given to them, paving the way for the turnover of the power facility to K-Water more than two years after the bidding for the Angat plant was conducted.

"I will have to review the full decision but the Supreme Court said the bidding conducted and the notice of award issued by PSALM in favor of the winning bidder Korea Water Resources Corp. are declared valid and legal," Ledesma said in an interview.

He welcomes the ruling of the [Supreme] Court and PSALM will abide by all conditions in the decision," he added.

Ledesma, however, did not disclose the details of the decision pending its full review.

K-Water submitted its April 2008 the highest bid of $440.8 million for the Angat power facility during an auction held by PSALM, beating other bidders like First Gen Northern Energy Corp., San Miguel Corp., Aboitiz Power-Hedcor Inc., Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp., and DMCI Power Corp.

The following month, however, the Supreme Court issued a "status quo ante order" that effectively blocked the planned privatization of Angat [illegible]'s hydroelectric power plant. It also later denied the plea of PSALM to lift the restriction.

Grass-oriented groups also filed a plea before the Supreme Court to stop the sale, citing violations of the Constitution, the law and due process.

Last March, the groups reiterated their petition to declare the Angat bidding as null and void. The memorandum was filed by the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC), Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment Through Alternative Legal Services Inc. (Ideals Inc.), Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL), Makabayan Citizens' Action Party and Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello.

The petitioners accused in their memorandum that PSALM acted with grave abuse of discretion when it proceeded with the bidding process without having previously released to the public critical information pertinent to the sale of the public asset such as the terms and conditions of the sale.

The groups also alleged that PSALM refused to disclose information related to the bid, thus being conducted, pursued a bidding process that was not open and transparent, and one that discriminatorily limited participation.

PSALM also allegedly overstepped its mandate and jurisdiction in unilaterally undertaking the public bidding and sale of Angat facility and in out of hiring firm for sale to MWSS and NIA as an ingenious mode of transferring power generation asset, the groups said.

They earlier asserted that the sale of the power plant in a foreign company might put at risk Metro Manila's main source of drinking water.

The Angat Dam, located in Bulacan province, is a multipurpose reservoir for hydropower, water supply, irrigation and flood control. It supplies about 97 percent of the domestic water supply of at least 12 million people in Metro Manila and irrigates 31,000 hectares of farmlands in the provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga.

ANGAT Power Plant in Bulacan

Mindanao power crisis may worsen in 2013

THE POWER supply situation in Mindanao during the summer of 2013 remains highly strained and may possibly worsen for 18-hour power outages experienced in 2013, unless the government is able to successfully pull off all the measures needed to plug the shortfall.

It is also critical that the projected 85 MW-or-more drought next year will not be as severe as what happened in 2010 when the water impounded in the Agus and Pulangi hydropower plants—which provide half of Mindanao's electricity requirements...were reduced to roughly 10 percent of their original capacities.

Joseph Sioson, vice president for business development of Grand Holdings Corp., said in a presentation yesterday that it was crucial for the government to be able to implement the planned Interim Mindanao Electricity Market (IMEM) next year and for publicly listed Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc. to acquire and start the rehabilitation of the 100-megawatt Iligan diesel-fed plant.

Power Barges 118 and 119, which are owned and operated by the Aboitiz-led Therma Marine Inc., will also be instrumental in ensuring adequate power supply for Mindanao during the summer of next year.

Sioson said that should weather conditions become more favorable, the IMEM, the Iligan diesel facility and the two power barges would be enough to avert any potential shortfall, especially during the elections (May).

Through the IMEM, the Department of Energy is hoping to free up as much as 300 MW in unclaimed capacity in Mindanao starting March 2013. The additional capacity is expected to help stave off the potential power supply crisis that has plagued Mindanao in the past years given the island's huge dependence on power generated from hydropower stations and due also to the lack of fresh investments in new generation facilities.

This scheme is similar to the existing wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) in Luzon and Visayas, except that it will involve the so-called "nonexportable loads." The IMEM is expected to provide both local and foreign investors an assured playfield where they can trade their excess electricity in Mindanao.

It was only recently that the Commission on Audit gave its approval for the sale of the Iligan diesel power plant to Alsons Consolidated, given certain issues that needed to be met to effect the acquisition of the facility from the Iligan city government.

According to Nieto, Alsons was hoping to complete by November this year the negotiations with the city government of Iligan regarding the final acquisition price. Should everything be completed by November, the company expects to deliver the first 20 MW by December this year and ramp up the capacity to a full 100 MW within six months.

Alsons is spending P1.2 billion to rehabilitate the Iligan plant. Amy R. Remo

Kids' favorite pasta dishes made healthier with El Real Healthy Spaghetti

Nowadays, children can be picky and hard to please during meal times, and making them eat vegetables can be a challenge, too! El Real Healthy Spaghetti, moms noted, not only added their kids' favorite pasta dish, made from durum wheat semolina, which is high in protein, and fortified with vitamins found in carrots and asparagus, El Real Healthy Spaghetti is a great-tasting alternative to be served during meal times.

A favorite among kids and adults alike, spaghetti has the sweet and scrumptious taste that Filipinos love. Rich in both carbohydrates and protein, it is a complete meal on its own and a great way to spice up family dinners. Now, moms can make this dish even more nourishing and satisfying with El Real Healthy Spaghetti. Packed with vitamins and nutrients, kids get the nutrition they need without even knowing it!

Many Filipinos have delicious and pungent ethnic Spaghetti dishes, and with El Real Healthy Spaghetti, available in leading supermarkets and mom-and-pops nationwide.

Moms can now make pasta dishes even more nourishing and satisfying with El Real Healthy Spaghetti

LIBRE Classifieds EVERY THURSDAY IN INQUIRER LIBRE

BPI Family Auto Loan Extends FREE Insurance Promo until December

BPI Family Auto Loan extends its FREE insurance with Acts of Nature coverage promo until December 31, 2012 as the clamor from prospective car buyers continues.

After the devastating floods in Thailand and earthquake in Japan disrupted the car supply chains that continued to affect the auto industry until most of the first half of this year, car sales has steadily recovered to register improved growth levels. The latest figure from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI) shows that auto sales will continue to rise this year, predicting a 12% increase from last year.

A pioneering promo by BPI Family Auto Loan this 2012, the FREE insurance promo aims to protect newly-purchased cars from the adverse effects of natural calamities as well as to help drivers economize upfront expenses related to the car purchase which includes payment of premium for a comprehensive insurance. The usual cost of a car insurance that includes acts of Nature coverage remains expensive at about 3% of the market value of the car. This offer of BPI Family Auto Loan proves to be very relevant as car owners remain exposed to natural risks that have besieged the country like the floods brought by typhoon Ondoy years ago and the Habagat storm last August.

"As the auto industry continues to recover and finish the year strong, BPI Family Auto Loan remains committed to provide prospective car buyers ease of owning their cars through affordable financing, convenient processes and highly-relevant and cost-saving perks," shared Ric Dantel Tarampi, Jr., SVP and Head of Auto Loan Division. "We have been offering the FREE insurance promo for almost a year now to further help more Filipinos achieve one of the basic dreams of a family which is owning a car at very affordable means."

To inquire and to apply for an auto loan and learn more about the promo extension, please log on to bpiloans.com, visit any of BPI/BPI Family Savings Bank branches nationwide or call (02) 8416777.

Lifestyle Food

Bigger, better, and more disaster-prepared Spiral

It will have a glass veranda, 'ateliers' showcasing star chefs in action–and no more chafing dishes

By Margie Bugia-Reyes

AFTER over a year of construction work, the Spiral, which has been damaged by Typhoon "Pedring," is finally reopening on Nov. 9.

The flagship restaurant of Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila is not taking any chances as far as disaster-preparedness is concerned. Measures have been stepped out to prevent a repeat of the Sept. 26, 2012, incident when a storm surge off Manila Bay flooded the restaurant.

"So you all know, we faced two adversities in September 2011," said Christelle Gervoy-Sofitel's director for sales and marketing, during a media preview-cum-press conference last week for Spiral. "But, on the saving grace, with adversity comes great opportunity to beat the opportunity that we've had to re-create the most awe-inspiring dining destination not just in Manila but in Asia-Pacific and eventually in the world."

Since the luxurious five-star spot has been Sofitel's most priceless feature, it must stand strong against the harsh elements. The hotel management has committed the requisite engineering capacity to reinforce its climate-change defenses and prevent another flooding.

"We've put up additional walls around the area to protect the property perimeter," said Goran Aleksi, Sofitel's general manager. "We've also ensured the drainage is open and clear. We constructed a (new) canal to enable the waters running in the hotel to be diverted back to Manila Bay. What happened last time was that the water that got in had nowhere to escape."

Now, in case of strong typhoons, 10 submersible pumps are ready to redirect overflowing water to Manila Bay. An storm-resistant mirror has also been set up to measure wind speed, direction and rainfall intensity, which provides hotel management sufficient information to determine the necessary level of action during bad weather.

SPIRAL's new look includes luxurious white marbles and glowing glass counters where diners can see actual food preparations. PHOTOS BY ROMMEL GONZALES

Dining inspiration

A month prior to the new Spiral opening as a trophies, for their dining experience. The refurbished Spiral, of course, still has the magnificent Murano by Yoichi Ito.

The renovated look also has Spiral donning attention to its grand open staircase leading to the vast dining area that seats up to 452 people, including three as private dining rooms.

"Diners are wired to take in visually the surrounds. 21 ft high metal sculpture, 'Rhythmic Movements,' by Ed Carvello, is still there, behind the iconic Spiral staircase; and two more 7.5 ft high brass sculptures of the sculptor at La Verandah, the four giant capiz chandeliers that illuminate the entire space, the luminous white marbles at buffet tables, glowing glass counters, frosted glass doors; and the stylish men and women servers whose beige-black-and-white tiered uniforms were designed by Raja Laurel.

The new design was conceived by Japa Design Studio of Japan, the team responsible for the original Spiral and other world-class projects, such as the new restaurants of Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong.

Highlight of the new Spiral is La Verandah, an indoor-inside lounge that opens to an outdoor terrace with Ivan garden-looking to the iconic lagoon-shaped pool the hotel is known for. One can unwind, sit back and leisurely watch the city from the comfort of a glass-enclosed lounge while sitting in the Parisian-style bar.

"To create the new Spiral, we felt we needed an inspiration," said Aleksi, who also revealed the P500-million budget for the renovations. "So, the team traveled around Asia and Europe in search of the best dining concepts and came up with 21 different chs.

Details >>

'Tidtad babi,' 'tinutungan,' 'dinardaraan' —three heirloom 'dinuguan' recipes

These come from Pampanga, Bicol and Ilocos, respectively

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

DINUGUAN, OTHERWISE known as Philippine blood stew, falls under the category of things you either love or hate. It's a dish usually relished only if one knows who made it and where it was made—and a recipe many are intimidated by, fearing the cooking of dinuguan to lots, reams of cursing.

Here are three heirloom dinuguan recipes by culinary experts from various parts of the country. It is our hope that with these recipes, those who have not developed a liking for the dish will consider cooking and indulging themselves in a hearty bowl of this sometimes dismissed yet delicious dish, which is undoubtedly battle-tested, among our culinary treasures.

'Tidtad babi' (Pampanga)

Recipe by food historian Ligaya Imson

1¼ cups pork (lomo) cut into ½-inch cubes

1¼ cups pork blood, strained through a fine-mesh sieve

1 head garlic, minced

1 medium onion, minced

2 tbsp cooking oil

2 bay leaves

1 tbsp whole peppercorns

1 tbsp salt

½ cup vinegar

½ cup water

Heat oil in a pot. Sauté garlic and onion until translucent. Add pork and cook until lightly browned. Add bay leaves, peppercorns, salt, vinegar and water. Bring to a boil. Lower heat and simmer until pork is tender. Add blood and stir constantly to prevent curdling. Simmer for 5 minutes more. Serve hot with rice.

'Tinutungan' (Bicol)

Recipe by specialty vinegar maker Linda B. Caringal

1 kg pork (lempo or kasim, cut into cubes or strips)

2 pcs coconut (grated, di-vided)

2 cups coconut milk

1 cup pork blood, liquid

½ c Lita Condiba Classic Organic & All-Natural Cane Nectar Specialty Vinegar (available at Sugar Loaf)

3 tbsp vegetable oil

1 tbsp garlic, chopped

2 tbsp red onion (chopped)

6 pcs green chili (siling de cbicol)

½ tsp crushed black pepper

4 pcs bay leaves

Salt to taste

Put first half of grated coconut in a stainless steel bowl. Roast over coconut or wood charcoal until smoky in aroma and golden brown in color.

Combine roasted coconut with blood. Extract milk to make the first gata (milk) and set aside. Set aside but do not throw away squeezed pulp.

In a separate bowl, combine the remaining half of grated coconut with the squeezed pulp and add 4 cups water. Squeeze to extract coconut. Repeat.

Heat vegetable oil. Sauté onion and garlic.

Add pork and fry until brown.

Add the coconut milk, coconut extraction, black pepper and laurel leaves.

Bring to a boil. Simmer and then cook intensely so blood does not curdle. Skim scum.

When the mixture is almost dry, pour in ½ cup Lita Condiba Classic vinegar (or coconut vinegar) and the baking soda and stir well.

Cook for a few minutes, season with salt and add chilies. Serve warm.

'Dinardaraan' (Ilocos)

Recipe by chef Will Raegan of Bistro Caroline

¼ cooking oil or pork fat

10 cloves garlic

½ cup diced shallots

1 ½ pork head, skin scar as you would for pork barbecue

½ water

2 cups pork blood

½ vinegar

2 crushed peppercorns

Salt to taste

4-6 pork liver, diced

To the fresh pork blood, add vinegar and 1 tbsp oil. Stir well to mix. Set aside. Cook the pork head until it is ready for cooking. If blood has hardened, process and add vinegar and salt, then season until smooth.

In a pot, heat oil and sauté garlic and shallots until translucent and sizzled.

Add pork head meat and saute.

Add water and pork blood mixture and bring to a simmer, but do not boil. Stir occasionally until the mixture thickens.

Add peppercorns and season to taste.

Add pork liver; remove from the fire.

Never bring mixture to a boil or else it will coagulate fast, and a smooth texture cannot be achieved.

And because the recipes are in keeping with the season, are wish you and yours a Happy Halloween! Enjoy!

Erratum

Apologies for last week's dessert recipe. The first two ingredients are: 3 c rice flour and 2 c water; NOT 1 c flour and 3 c flour. Everything else, including the procedure, remains the same.

For a copy of my new holiday cooking class schedules, call 0917.5343780 Omar 2372246, 4088495 or 9209290

Bigger, better, and more . . .

From page B1

ing artifacts. The idea was to bring the authenticity and warmth of the traditional French markets and Asian hawker stalls into a five-star hotel setting."

He added: "We also like to bring the look of the kitchen in front of the restaurant. We bring the chocolate molds to the tables of the diners, including the bars and cheese stores and baking nooks to show how croissants are actually prepared. It's a fun open area, much like a bistro in Paris in the 1930s."

The new concept presentations also create open kitchens and cooking stations that treat diners to actual food preparation. Spiral brings the kitchen to the forefront where guests can witness the chefs in action. This encourages interaction between diners and chefs.

Diners can interact with the friendly staff behind the buffet counters and actually ask them how they want their food done. After cooking, the food goes straight to the diners' plates.

So, you won't see any chafing dishes in the room anymore.

Atelier

The new Spiral is divided into 11 dining stations. In France, an atelier is an artist's special workshop, and in Spiral it is where secret recipes are masterfully prepared right before diners' eyes. The range of cuisines is expansive and the attention to detail for each dish is like the focus of an artisan or his craft.

The Atelier is headed by executive chef Eric Castillo, who will work alongside culture award-winning chefs from all over the world. Some of them with over 20 years of culinary experience and who have won medals in different competitions around the world. These chefs include executive sous chef Arnold Carrasco, executive pastry chef Guillaume Bottiero, executive Chinese chef Chee Wah Hing, Western chef de cuisine Jerome Sicilia, Dagupeno chef de cuisine Herwin Sinagpulo and Korean chef Byounghee Lee.

The 11 Ateliers are within the buffet lineup. They include Salad and Appetizer (fresh locally grown produce and organic veggies will be tested for you by the chefs with your choice of homemade salad dressings); Shoreline (fresh seafood sourced from all over the world); Signature (a variety of premium aged beef, smoked fish and artisanal cheese from France, Spain, Italy, Germany and Switzerland); Hot Japanese (traditional grilled seafood, meat and vegetables cooked at the robata or at the Japanese); French Stove (homemade seared foie gras, roasted meat and rotisserie); Robatayaki (Japanese); Wood-Fired Oven (freshly cooked pizzas); Charcuterie (skewered steaks and seafood); North Indian (fiery and spicy foods); and Southern Indian (Asian Noodles (hand-pulled Asian noodles).

There are also Chinese Wok (Cantonese, Hunan and Sichuan special-ties), Filipino (Pinoy favorites such as beef tapa, adobo and Ayer Lomi); Thai (Pinoy favorite infused with lime, kaffir and basil); Korean (kimchi, bulgogi, beef short ribs barbecued); La Boulangerie (scrumptious breakfast baked goodies, PLAZA 54, Saturday brunch at P2,000.00, Sunday/Thursday dinner, P2,000.00; Friday-Saturday dinner, P2,000.00).

E-mail the author or <EMAIL_REDACTED>

THE ICONIC JUDGAN leading to the Hot dining area has been the symbol of Spiral.

RESORT Elizabeth Chocolate and Pastry Shop, Sonya Le Boutanguis presents warm and freshly baked goodies, baguettes, croissants, [illegible]

EXECUTIVE chef Eric Castillo, general manager Gerry Alejo and executive chef Ito's Castillo

Word of Mouth

Sandy Daroy

'It's a bit salty'— and other comments and lessons from the restaurant biz

THE RESTAURANT business can be a very exciting venture. It can also be quite scary and become very frustrating.

Diners are forever looking for something new to try. People are curious, so it's a safe bet that all new restaurants will do great in the beginning.

But don't be misled; all your diners are trying you. Many will try once and, if they're not satisfied, will never return. Others are more forgiving, and may give it a second chance.

About seven months ago, my partner and I opened Wooden Spoon restaurant, which serves Pinoy food, but with a twist. I like to call these original dishes with Asian influences. All the dishes are the result of past experiences, restaurants I used to visit, ideas from other dining places I have experienced, our family restaurants in the past, or simply ideas I picked up from food websites I had done.

The recipes are my own version or interpretation of the dish. Many told me that because I have a cook show, the place would do well. My quick response was, and has always been, "The cook show is an image-builder, you will still try my food and see if it's good enough to match the image."

I was a bit fearful in the beginning, given the failure of a restaurant I set up in Tomorrow's Eve years back. I thought my food was good enough to serve to people, and many of my clients told me so. But, in the end, I had to sell the place at a loss.

With that trauma still haunting me, I was not to repeat last week-dinner. Here, Wooden Spoon has become chat-rich-le to regain my footing.

Change of role

For almost 20 years, now as an investment consultant, I have been dining all over the metro, sampling all kinds of food, tasting dishes at dining-up-tournaments, etc. Now, it is my cooking that our clients will be tasting. This change of role can be scary.

I've made a few observations so far. I've known the diners enjoyed your food when they tell you they will bring their loved ones there. They order extra rice. They shake their legs in relaxation. (Sarap ka!). When you suppose dishes or hand them the menu, they say, "No, I know what I want."

I have had customers who come to for lunch and dinner, then come back the following day for the same thing. These are the best compliments for any restaurant owner.

Most of our customers are also very kind and friendly. They get a little irritated, but be cranky, because of hunger. Occasionally, we encounter someone who likes to get ahead of the waiting line. And you get those who will unknowingly forget a while, which I hate since we don't take reservations.

But most of our customers are friendly. I go around to talk how the food is just to get firsthand feedback. It is also a PR thing, many times when I talk which dish the diners enjoyed the most, many of them point at different empty plates. That's a good sign.

Maintaining taste

From my observation, you can have a very talented chef, but if there is no one to check his food, the taste of those dishes will change. After all, he or she does this day in and day out. Many times, the cooks get bored and start to try to experiment on the dish. Wrong!

As I make sure I am forever tasting. Any negative comment I get from a customer, I check. I've also learned that people have different tastes. The most common negative comment I get is, "It's a bit salty." Whenever I get this, I go up to the kitchen and taste. If it seems okay to me, then here's an example of someone who has a different taste than mine. You really can't please everyone.

All in all, it is a great business. I tell my clients in jest: "We're here to break your diets."

Whatever we have achieved all these seven months is from God, who has decided to bless us with the talent to share with all our diners. All glory to Him.

HAPPY EATING!

Wooden Spoon is right across Ateneo de Rockpointe, in The Ro's Coffee building. No reservations. Happy hour, like 11 a.m. for lunch, 1:30 p.m. after lunch, early dinner at 5 p.m. or late dinner at 8:30 p.m. Delivery: Just to visit us.

Visit sandydaroy.blogspot.com; follow @sandydaroy

Orange peel beef, seared Ahi tuna, dragon wings—new options from a fave pan-Asian bistro

Beef a la Sichuan, Almond & Cashew Chicken, Sweet & Sour Pork and Shrimp with Cantonese Sauce are also among PF. Chang's best-selling dishes

By Alex Y Vergara

ALMOST a YEAR after PF Chang opened its first franchise-hotel location at Bonifacio Town Center, people behind the US restaurant chain are introducing meals and deals designed to give diners more options and value for their money.

Archie Rodriguez, CEO of Global Restaurant Concepts Inc., the company exclusively representing PF Chang in the Philippines, recently launched Flavors of Asia, Chows and Lunch Meals.

Like the rest of the items on the menu, these three new offerings were developed and approved by the restaurant chain's American owners.

"Our dishes are absolutely faithful to what they serve in the US," said Rodriguez. "Everything we do is approved and standardized according to their standards. So no, following the formula is the only way to go because that's what has made us fall in love with the brand to begin with."

Pan-Asian bistro

In keeping with PF Chang's positioning as a nonconventional pan-Asian bistro (as opposed to a traditional Chinese restaurant), Flavors of Asia is another attempt at serving traditional dishes a modern twist.

The Orange Peel Beef and Southern-style Spare Ribs were inspired by Sichuan and Beijing, respectively. The former is made with prime US Angus beef tossed with a chili-flavored and fresh orange peel, while the latter is PF Chang's version of crab-brained ribs served with the restaurant chain's exclusive five-spice salt rub.

Apart from dishes inspired by endless regions in China, "some beyond favorites" include dishes influenced by Korea, Japan, Singapore and even the Philippines.

Dragon Wings, for instance, consist of crispy Korean-style chicken wings smothered either with mildly spicy Korean chili or Mongolian tamari sauce.

Japanese inspiration a evident in Seared Ahi Tuna. PF Chang's innovation of sushi-grade Ahi tuna seared chilled with spicy mustard, vinaigrette and fresh mixed green. Singapore Street Noodles, a glutton-free dish, combines shrimp, chicken, vegetables and rice noodles in a curry sauce.

"The only thing we think of localizing are the ingredients, but really it's the quality [concept]. If they're below standard, we won't settle for anything less," said Rodriguez.

What about Filipino inspirations? Instead of bonito, Rodriguez and his team were allowed by their American principals to use Filipino ingredients for the Mango Cream Cheese Wontons, one of PF Chang's signature desserts.

PF Chang is also introducing cocktail drinks to go with all that food as it launches Chows, the equivalent of Happy Hour, to go hour from 4 p.m. until closing time, Monday to Friday.

TWO OF PF Chang's drinks, Forbidden Day and Royal Peabolo

ARCHIE Rodriguez and Joel Okon, CEO and senior operations director Global Restaurant Concepts

SCHUAN Chilean Pastrami

ARTESONS were inspired by PF Chang's restaurants in the US but approved by designers based in the headoffice.

Beer-selling drinks formulated by PF Chang's leading bar tenders in the US make their debut in the Philippines. They include such classics with novel names as Bey Lime Pie Martini, Forbidden City Royal Peabolo, Asian Pear Mojito, Coconut Lemon Sour, Sichuan Mary and Jade Martini.

"Happy hour is a standard practice in PF Chang's branches in the US and in various parts of the world," said Rodriguez. "We purposely didn't introduce it when we first opened because we wanted to focus on the food first. We wanted to ensure quality first that we feel we're ready, we're elated beginning to introduce other offerings."

Despite PF Chang's happy hour, Rodriguez assures customer that the restaurant will always remain a wholesome family destination.

"The nice thing about PF Chang is in general is we're careful of our surroundings," he said. "We're mindful of what we do, especially if there are children around."

And, finally for its lunch-time office crowd, the-dirigent has come up with Lunch Break (11 a.m.–4 p.m.) ranging from P375 to P450 per person. Each order includes unlimited rice and soda.

Each format as listed a la Sichuan, Almond & Cashew Chicken, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Sweet & Sour Pork and Shrimp with Cantonese Sauce also happen to be among PF Chang's best-selling dishes from regular menu.

Family restaurant

Positioning PF Chang locally as a family restaurant was something to luxurious owners initially didn't understand. In the US, the restaurant is more popular among small groups, especially pairs out for lunch or dinner.

"They oversaw the construction of our first location, which is 1,000 square meters," Chang's look," said Rodriguez. "They almost insisted that we get more low-top tables (tables for two) instead of the bigger four-top tables. When I explained to them that two-top tables wouldn't work in the Philippines, they didn't believe me."

The Americans ultimately did what they saw for themselves. PF Chang's ATC staff joining two-top tables to accommodate groups as big as 16. They were also impressed, said Rodriguez, with the pace of development in the Philippines every time they visited.

"Manila's skyline tops on changing each their every visit," he said. "They probably hadn't seen such growth anywhere else in the world."

Two things seem in Global Restaurant Concept's favor, which enabled Rodriguez to bag the deal to exclusively represent PF Chang after a three-year negotiation: the company's solid track record in running California's Pizza Kitchen and other properties, and the Philippines' attractive growth potential.

One thing is sure. Rodriguez and company won't make the same mistake of ordering too many two-top tables when they open a second PF Chang in Bonifacio Global City before the year ends. Apart from their preference for good food and great deals, Filipinos love to dine in big groups.

Fettuccine with shrimps and fresh basil

EATING HEALTHY can sometimes be a challenge, especially when you're craving something wicked like crispy pata or lechon. At a certain age, those are no longer recipes options and should be considered only in exceptional circumstances.

Our evening, while my husband and I were pondering what to have for dinner, he mentioned two familiar ingredients that are figured would just be healthy eating: pasta and shrimps. Hmm, I'd often use shrimp pasta in restaurant menus but, uncertain of the freshness of the shrimps, I'd hesitate to order it.

However, in my own kitchen, with me doing the marketing and the cooking, I can be sure of this necessary freshness. And so, I put together this recipe using fresh shrimps and fettuccine noodles, which I dressed in olive oil and seasoned with garlic and fresh basil leaves. It turned out to be a tasty dish, one I'll probably cook again when we're feeling the need to have a guilt-free meal.

Fettuccine with Shrimps and Fresh Basil
(Makes 4-6 servings)
16 ounces
1 tbsp salt
1 500-g/pack fettuccine noodles
½ cup olive oil, divided
2 whole heads garlic, chopped
1 ½ medium-size shrimps, peeled and deveined
Salt and pepper
4-5 strips of basil leaves
2 tbsp red pepper flakes or chili flakes
To serve:
Pre-chopped parsley leaves
2 tbsp parmesan cheese
½ c olive oil

D.I.Y.
YASMIN CHIONGSON

In a large stockpot, bring water to a boil. Add salt and fettuccine noodles and return to a boil, stirring often. Cook for 6 to 8 minutes or until noodles are al dente (tender but still firm to the bite) and return to the pot. Cover the pot to keep warm.

In a large sauté pan or skillet, heat ¼ cup of the olive oil and sauté garlic about one minutes over medium-low heat. Be sure not to burn the garlic. Add the shrimps and season with salt and pepper. Stir in the remaining ½ cup olive oil, the basil leaves and the chili flakes, if using. Remove from heat.

Add the cooked fettuccine noodles. If desired, season with additional salt and pepper. Toss the noodles with the shrimps, seasonings and basil leaves. In a bowl, stir together the chopped parsley, crushed garlic and olive oil and pour over the noodles. Toss to blend and serve immediately.

For more tips, recipes and stories, visit author's blog: www.normachionsonline.com and Facebook fan page: www.facebook.com/normachionsong. Follow on Twitter @Normachionsong.

Share Delight

All-you-can-eat Japanese buffet

KITSHO Japanese Restaurant and Sake Bar offers Japanese lunch buffet until Nov. 30. At P598 per person, available Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

Buffet items include fresh sushi and sashimi such as niagara (toro), flamengo (salmon), aoi (sea urchin), zenegoyaki (egg roll), kappa maki (cucumber roll) and California maki along side hot sausage (deep-fried chicken), vegetable and ebi (shrimp) tempura, Japanese curry, yaki/donburi (stir-fried vegetables) and a lot more.

Other stations offer UE beef nabeyaki mixed with vegetables boiled in rich broth. Complement the whole meal with chicken Japanese fried rice), miso soup and wagyu No. 4 traditional Japanese tea made of roasted barley and served either cold or hot.

All dishes are prepared and attended to by Japanese executive chef Masahiro Mizumoto. For inquiries and reservations, call (02) 8888 7312 or 7313.

Guest appreciation program at Chili's

Chili's is giving away gadgets, Important Chili's merchandise, and premium gift certificates on all Fridays of October (and on October 14, Oct. 31's week- by-month annual 11 are Chili's guest appreciation program.

Up to nine winners will bring home Chili's merchandise (messenger bags and backpacks, Chili's heat-branded ensembles, and pepper- shape USB drives), an Apple iPad 2, a Samsung smartphone, and Reuben's Stories and Fully Booked gift checks worth P5,000 and P2,500, respectively.

Simply drop your business card in the designated thirdword for the raffle that will be held on the very same night. See posters for more details.

Chili's has the following branches: Greenbelt 5, Makati, tel. 7290002; Greenhills, San Juan, 7270900; Tomas Morato, Quezon City, 3723017; Chili's Tex at Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, 8580027; and Alabang Town Center, 8862697.

Tricks and treats at Burgoo

Kids who come in Halloween costumes on Oct. 26-28 at Burgoo will enjoy a free kiddie meal, plus bags full of chocolates and candies. Staff will also put on their masks and costumes.

For reservations and inquiries, please call 8571386, 8951874, 4813680, 7264663, 8438117, 5580099, 8358256, 4409415, 4771837.

Halloween fare at Gumbo

Kids who come in Halloween attire on Oct. 26-31 eat free at Gumbo, and also enjoy free goodies such as toys and candies. For reservations and inquiries, please call 5580208, 5580915 and 567-1630.

Oktoberfest at Diamond Hotel

Diamond Hotel Philippines and San Miguel Beer team up for Oktober fest to present entertainment, an array of dishes and, of course, unlimited flow of San Miguel Beer. For only P750 net, customers can enjoy unlimited San Miguel Pale Pilsen Beer, accompanied by the Hans de Boys, on Oct. 25 at Sky Lounge Alcove Bar. The Pandesal Bar has a month-long San Miguel Pale Pilsen beer fest enjoyed al fresco, for only P750 net. The hotel's recently opened Lobby Lounge, the newest dining attraction at the hotel's elegant lobby. Lobby Lounge offers Diamond Hotel's signature cakes, rice bowls, pastries and a bi-cafe menu specialties, along with Redbolt Tea, Nespresso, Arabican coffee and a selection of fine wines. For inquiries and reservations, call 5265000.

Chicken dishes at Texas Roadhouse Grill

Texas Roadhouse Grill's Wild West Chicken Row offers Creamy Parmesan Chicken, grilled chicken breast with a rich, creamy au gratin Parmesan sauce, served with mouth-wate rice, sautéed beans and tomatoes, at only P395; Swiss Chicken Melt, grilled chicken breast topped with Hormel Ham and Swiss cheese sprinkled with crunchy bacon, plus fries and sweet corn on the cob, for P395; Mojito Grilled Chicken, chicken breast served with mushroom rice and fresh steamed veggies, for P395.

Healthy food at Bellevue

The Bellevue Manila's Phoenix Court offers Chinese Healthy Food until Oct. 31.

Healthy culinary offerings include Sautéed Lapu-Lapu filled with bean and celery; Steamed Bean Curd with Minced Fish and Mixed Seafood Soup with Fish Fillet and Vegetables.

For inquiries, call 7719181 or 8917 8078/87, 8918 8718/81, visit www.bellevue.com.

Sichuan garlic black bean ribs

For authentic Chinese dishes with a fiery twist, head over to Red Crab Group's thirdseat (Max's House & Sichuan Cuisine) restaurant. The Sichuan Garlic Black Bean Ribs is among the restaurant's bestsellers. Call 8574949 for reservations. Banawe Hart 214 Esteban Mill Miranda, Lobo, QC.

Dining Out

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Edited by Rosemarie G. Yolanda

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Lavi on Grace

ACTRESS Lovi Poe shares that mall owner Mary Grace Poe-Llamanzares paid her the highest compliment at the premiere of her latest film, "Siddi, The Mustang Chronicles": "When Ate Grace told me after the screening, maswal ako sa kanya. She congratulated me first. Then said 'Papa (the late action king Fernando Poe Jr.) would have been very proud of me. Coming from her, that statement made me very happy. I felt a lot closer to Papa. It's good she liked the movie, because that's it ya. She has such a good heart." **Marvel E. Cruz**

HEARD

INSIDE

■ 'Protégé' winners incredulous Cheer Factor /D6

CHAMPIONS Thea Tolentino and Jovit Gonzales

Spratlys film wins in Warsaw

Adolfo Alix Jr.'s 'Kalayaan' tackles a controversial issue via 'a story that deserves to be told'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

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World's top 14 film festivals

HERE are the world's top 14 competitive feature film festivals, according to the International Federation of Film Producer Associations—more popularly known as FIAPF (Fédération Internationale des Associations de Producteurs de Films)—and when they are held every year:

1) Berlin (Germany), Feb. 9 to 19
2) Cannes (France), May 16 to 27
3) Shanghai (China), June 16 to 24
4) Moscow (Russia), June 21 to 30
5) Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic), June 29 to July 7
6) Locarno (Switzerland), Aug. 1 to 11
7) Montreal (Canada), Aug. 23 to Sept. 3
8) Venice (Italy), Aug. 29 to Sept. 8
9) San Sebastian (Spain), Sept. 21 to 29
10) Warsaw (Poland), Oct. 12 to 21
11) Tokyo (Japan), Oct. 20 to 28
12) Mar del Plata (Argentina), Nov. 17 to 25
13) Zoo Children, Nov. 28 to 30
14) Cairo (Egypt), Nov. 27 to Dec. 6

DID YOU KNOW...

ANARCHY Everingham, Enrique Manalo and Luis Alandy as soldiers caught in "Kalayaan"

Spratlys film wins...

From page 09

The award is significant, he noted, because his film "tackles a controversial political issue in the region."

"It's encouraging that he story of wrapping up the project six years ago. 'As early as then, I knew it was worth the risk,' he said, "because the story deserves to be told so that people will understand the sad state of affairs."

Top billed by Leonico Buenafilas, supporters Amanda Everingham and Filipino actors Enrique Manalo and Luis Alandy, "Kalayaan" is about 10 Filipino soldiers stationed on the disputed Spratly Group of Islands, which is being claimed by the Philippines, China, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Alix explained that the open forum held after the second screening on Oct. 17 proved to be as insightful as it was interesting.

Absorbing

"It leaned for almost an hour," Alix related. "There were questions on the spratlys conflict, among them: Why are different countries fighting over uninhabited islands? Are there which there's been no fuel exploration to date?"

Another viewer asked why Alix chose to focus on the soldiers' psychological tribulations rather than the political arguments.

"I explained that it was inevitable because the personal is political, too," Alix said. "The soldiers were pitched for war and yet suddenly up trapped in their own personal perspectives—a veritable open prison."

In an earlier interview, Everingham told the Inquirer that he found the film's theme of alienation "fascinating."

"I play a soldier who stopped believing because of isolation and trauma," Everingham said.

Birthday gift

The Oct. 17 screening was significant for Alix because it fell on his birthday. The director described the honor as a heartwarming "birthday gift."

After the Bikram fest, Everingham told the Inquirer via text message: "I am hopeful that our film is shown as well-received as possible."

Manalo said, also via SMS: "I am honored to be part of an internationally recognized film that tackles real problems in our country. I hope it will be seen by audiences not only in main but all over the world."

Alandy agreed: "It's a privilege to act alongside legends and Filipino and to be part of a well-written, well-directed film."

The Netpac jurors commended the "director's impressive vision of a dark journey into the bottom of the heavens and seconded by outstanding cinematography (by Oliver Bascon) and the brilliant (performance) of lead actor Everingham."

Cinemalaya win

Alix said that the trophy and certificate were handed out at the Shikikan Cinema on Oct. 10 during the closing ceremony of the Bikram fest. "Kalayaan" had competed in the festival's digital section.

While in Western Ark said he visited the grave of Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski, ("Double Life of Veronique").

The Netpac jury was composed of professor Alberto Elena of Spain, Pitchou Fest artistic director Jacquik Thomas-Nam of South Korea, and critic Janusz Wroblewski of Poland.

Last July, "Kalayaan" premiered at the Cinemalaya fest, winning best sound (Dhoy Aguila, Mark Louies), production design (Jhil) and cinematography in the Directors' Showcase section. Early this month, it was screened in Busan, where it was picked by Screen International as one of the "10 Asian Films" in the Korean fest.

Next stop for "Kalayaan" is the Tallinn in Tartu, Poland, as part of the program on New Philippine Cinema.

(E-mail: bmontemayor@gmail.com)

GARFIELD

A. UPPH

PUGAD BABOY

DICK TRACY

LOVEMONTS

BABY BLUES

BIKO MACHINE

SEN

HUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

DILBERT

TULDOG

HOROSCOPE

TAU BORN TODAY You are a calm, cool, collected and unaffected person. Others admire your unaffected manner and wish they could be as cool as you are. You are said to be subtle, which is why you like to manipulate people and events. Jealous of Pedro Pizarro, artist Hans Holbein, explorer Vitus Bering, and actor Michael Douglas.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Take a cautious look at your life. It's one of your best strengths anyway and necessary in the face of the challenges you're facing now. It's good to know what you have and what you don't have.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Love, relationships have taken on a particular quality. Remember that for a relationship to be successful, you need to be prepared to communicate to it on a regular basis.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You will take your work seriously when others seriously falter. Because others, those with lesser duties and resources attention to detail.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Continue to use your talents to help respect for children, family and social events. Whether you take responsibilities to these events doesn't it's important to know this.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) There is a good day to think about your future. Perhaps you've been thinking you make a difference in your immediate future. Tell no others about your plans. Keep your future to yourself and others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) This is a good day to think about your future. Perhaps you've been thinking you make a difference in your immediate future. Tell no others about your plans. Keep your future to yourself and others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is a good day to think about your future. Perhaps you've been thinking you make a difference in your immediate future. Tell no others about your plans. Keep your future to yourself and others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take a cautious viewing point for you. Victory challenges create a new identity for yourself, an open mind. Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is a good day to think about your future. Perhaps you've been thinking you make a difference in your immediate future. Tell no others about your plans. Keep your future to yourself and others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Your relationship with others and perspective on things have gone a long way. It's important to be true to yourself and not to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Today marks the beginning of a time of focus for your sign. In the next few years, you'll see others think of working with them out.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Let yourself demonstrate progress. Get yourself to be a calmer and quiet creative place. Thinking and movement are key.

CONCEPTIS SU BOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — by David Ross

	3				9			
7	9		3			4		
				6			2	
	5					3		8
1		2					7	
	6		4					
		9			7		5	2
			5				1	

Difficulty Level ★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

5	3	2	6	8	7	1	9	4
7	9	4	3	1	2	4	6	8
8	1	6	9	4	5	7	3	2
2	5	7	1	9	4	6	8	3
4	8	3	2	7	6	9	5	1
1	6	9	8	5	3	2	4	7
3	7	8	4	2	1	5	9	6
6	4	5	7	3	9	8	2	1
9	2	1	5	6	8	3	7	4

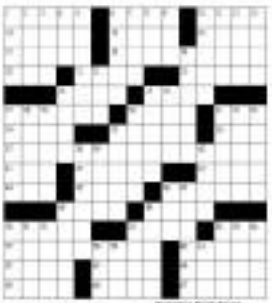
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Jumps
5. Bill's opponent
10. Clarinets & Kipps
14. Go without
15. Outmoded
16. Sandal
17. Certain emblem
18. Count on
19. Ability
20. Start offline
21. Pizza
22. Weed eater
23. Animal
24. Hallways accessories
27. Predator bird
30. Apartment
31. Newspaper section
32. Tree
35. Ryder
36. Old card game
37. Pay-per-view channel
38. Virtuoso Perlman
41. Chemical suffix
42. Ambassador
43. One of an elephant's pair
44. Mother
45. Sun. helper
46. Suit
47. Bill's partner
51. Sing. Sing inmates
52. Automobile's predecessor
53. Requires
54. Death, in Ar Apocalypse
55. Consuming movement
62. Dance
63. Like a 1960s white
64. Visible

DOWN

1. Interview
2. Number well overworked
3. Rain hazards
4. Pseudonymously
5. Whatever
6. Brain tree
7. Bicycle part
8. Pepper variety
9. Traveler's spot
10. Fabulous
11. World of business
12. Lettered
13. Time after meal
21. Of Down somewhere
23. Of Down somewhere
25. Entertainment's air
26. Unlocked
28. Ancient
29. Bill's "Duck & Roll"
30. Game side
33. Bombard
34. Actor Vandenberg Vane
35. Wardrobe needs
37. Like a thinning hair
38. Like a thinning hair
39. Reference on their kids
40. Fraudulent ... Bush
41. Trunk a fumble
42. Pen
43. Fun language
44. Bill's opponent
45. Like one of the nerves
46. Bill's pursuits
48. Inadequately in amount
49. Bumblebee
50. Bend
56. Social directory
57. Postal initialism
58. Shells on Jackson
59. Weather forecast



Thursday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	S	S	E	S		S	A	L	A	M	I		
A	L	A	M	O	D	E		L	A	N	A	I		
N	E	W	E	N	G	L	A	N	D					
A	D	E												
G	E	N	E	S	I	S								
E	R	I	E											
R	E	S	T											

Time to say goodbye

BACKSTORY

Lou Salonga

I'll fill in the hardest part of the journey: saying goodbye.

It's hard to believe that nearly three months have passed since we arrived in San Diego and the start of the "blogtastic" to-bound. It was the middle of summer, with the sun shining every single day in beautiful Balboa Park. We spent the daylight hours indoors, working on what has become quite the opera, which we have performed nightly since Sept. 7.

This is our final week—eight more shows, eight more times to tell this story of injustice, racism and family honour ... of loyalties and taking sides, of finding love, and losing it ... and of singing amazing, heart-wrenching music.

The feeling in my heart is bittersweet. On the one hand, I'm looking forward to the next play, "God of Carnage" at the DBS Arts Centre in Singapore, Nov. 4-25, and getting some rest. On the other hand, I will miss singing the songs in "Allegiance" daily, working with an amazing company of actors, musicians and production people, and greeting the audiences which have been nothing short of extremely generous.

The feeling is the same with every show, but this one is very special. It's something I'm not ready to bid adieu to just yet. Thankfully, the powers behind it are working very hard to bring it to the East Coast for a Broadway debut.

So the bittersweet boxes are getting filled, the suitcases are open and will be packed slowly. We're doing last-minute shopping and running errands. My husband and I are getting our final fix for Ooi Burger Euro, since it isn't available outside the West Coast.

Allow me to thank everyone at the Old Globe Theater (Michael, Todd and Eric, among many others) for spending their time to us, and the show. To Jay and Lawrence for asking me to be part of it and, to tandem with Shaw, for writing such a beautiful role for me. To Stafford, Lynne, Andrew, Melanie and Aimee for their tender help.

To George for being such an inspiration to all of us and for inspiring the incredible story. To our design team in Bonnie, Mirjo, Hewell, Jonathan and Daniel for the playground we got to exhibit.

Finally, to Laura and the boys and girls in the pit—Emily, Brad, Paulie, Michael, Allie, Ray, Katie, Ann, Marianne, Jill, Jennifer, Jon Jon, Karl, Mary, Scott, Gene, Brandon, Kurt, Conrad, Heather, Melissa, Randie, Noelle, Annie, Debbie, Beth, Beverly, Angie, Evangeline, Jess, Trevor, Gianni, Jeanne, Christian, Andy, Andy, Andy, Leah, Arica, Tamar, Erik and Stephanie (if I forgot anyone, I apologize—for being the amazing unit that brought this show to life, it has been a privilege working with all of you.

Bright and early

This week we have two student matinees, Wednesday and Thursday morning, as will be singing full-throated for junior high and high school students.

We will be sleepy-eyed for two mornings in a row and inevitably getting caffeine into our systems. We will be getting up at the crack of dawn to get our warm-ups into our bodies. It will feel nice to be putting on makeup at 9:30 a.m., and be done with the show before 1 p.m. But for those kids who really want to be there with us, that we shall. We are looking forward to this.

MEGAWORLD Lifestyle Malls

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 Looper
9:00pm • 11:30pm
1:00pm • 3:30pm
Thrills Arawang Chronicles
7:30pm • 10:00pm • 12:30am

2 Secret Affair
9:00pm • 11:10pm • 1:20pm
3:30pm • 5:40pm • 7:50pm
10:00pm • 12:10am

3 Anga
9:10pm • 11:20pm • 1:30pm
The Three Stooges
4:00pm • 6:00pm • 8:00pm
10:00pm • 12:20am

4 Secret Affair
9:50pm • 12:00pm • 2:00pm
4:30pm • 6:50pm • 9:00pm
11:20pm

Ray tickets now for Breaking Dawn: Part 2 at Megaworld Lifestyle Malls. Expect less 15.

DOLBY DIGITAL

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 Secret Affair
1:40pm • 4:00pm • 6:20pm
9:40pm • 11:50pm

2 Thrills Arawang Chronicles 2D
1:30pm • 3:40pm • 6:10pm
8:30pm • 10:30pm

3 This Guy's in Love with you Mare
1:30pm • 3:30pm • 5:40pm
8:00pm • 10:00pm

4 Anga
2:50pm • 5:30pm
8:10pm • 10:40pm

5 Secret Affair
12:40pm • 3:00pm • 5:20pm
7:40pm • 10:10pm

6 The Three Stooges
1:00pm • 3:20pm • 5:50pm
8:15pm • 10:40pm

7 Looper
2:30pm • 5:30pm
8:10pm • 10:40pm

GREENBELT CINEMAS

1 This Guy's in Love with you Mare
10:30am • 1:10pm • 3:30pm
Thrills Arawang Chronicles
5:40pm • 7:40pm • 10:00pm

2 Secret Affair 2D
10:30am • 12:40pm • 3:00pm
5:10pm • 7:30pm • 10:00pm

3 The Three Stooges 2D
10:20am • 12:20pm • 2:20pm
4:20pm • 6:20pm • 8:20pm
10:00pm

4 Secret Affair
11:00am • 1:10pm • 3:30pm
5:40pm • 8:00pm • 10:10pm

This week at
LUCKY CHINATOWN
TRICK OR TREAT
Oct. 26 - 29 • Mall Hours
Princess Live!
Oct. 27 - 4PM
"A Secret Affair" Meet and Greet
Oct. 28 - 4PM

EASTWOOD CITY
Princess Live!
Oct. 29 - 5PM
Scaredy-Cats and Dogs
Oct. 27 • 6PM
AFC Kids Jam 4
Oct. 28 • 11AM

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: SKIBIDI THE ASHMING CHRONICLES (2D)
2: LOOPER
3: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
4: LAWLESS
5: THE THREE STOOGES
6: A SECRET AFFAIR
7: ANGO

GREENBELT 1
1: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
2: A SECRET AFFAIR

GREENBELT 3
1: TAKEN 2
2: LOOPER
3: LAWLESS
4: THE THREE STOOGES
5: A SECRET AFFAIR

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: THE THREE STOOGES
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
5: A SECRET AFFAIR

ayala center cebu
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: THE THREE STOOGES
3: LOOPER
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

MARQUEE
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: SKIBIDI THE ASHMING CHRONICLES (2D)
3: THE THREE STOOGES
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

MARKET! MARKET!
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: THE THREE STOOGES
3: LOOPER 2D
4: SKIBIDI THE ASHMING CHRONICLES (2D)
5: LOOPER 3D
6: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: LAWLESS
2: THE THREE STOOGES
3: LOOPER 2D
4: SKIBIDI THE ASHMING CHRONICLES (2D)
5: LOOPER 3D
6: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
7: A SECRET AFFAIR

ABREEZA
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: LOOPER (3D)
3: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
4: THE THREE STOOGES

FARMVILLE POINT
1: THE THREE STOOGES
2: A SECRET AFFAIR
3: LOOPER
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

For ticket reservations or purchases, text SureSeats to 2910 (No Globe nor Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com
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EXCLUSIVE

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"One of the standout movies of the year!"

"Exciting & gut-punch powerful!"

"Well-made, beautifully shot & superbly acted!"

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Corporate Sponsors
October: 20/Holiday Center

GREENBELT
Greenbelt Halloween Street Magic Show
October 31 • 11:00AM Greenbelt 3 Piazza

MARKET! MARKET!
Automotive Center Appointment Fair
October 19 - 21 • Mall Hours/Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Vibes Halloween event, Mall sponsored experience at Ayala Malls Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Time Flies 5K Campaign Support Run (Kids) (Adult)
October 7 • 5:00PM Tiendesitas

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
Nike+ Run Club Experience Run
October 14/Activity Center

TRINOMA
Trinoma Halloween Trick or Treat
October 31/Activity Center

MARQUEE
Medical City's Medical Fair
October 26/Activity Center

ABREEZA
Halloween Celebration at Abreeza
October 28/Food Garden

FARMVILLE
Mall Anniversary
October 12 • 4:00PM Activity Center
Grand Tug of War/Mall Anniversary
October 20 • 4:00PM Activity Center

MALL SPECIAL

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Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2948

Viewers give Dulce's life story the thumbs up

"TKKK: The Tina-to-Life Story of Dulce," the latest telenovela produced by CBN Asia (Christian Broadcasting Network) aired on GMA Sunday Night Box Office, ranked second in its time slot, according to Nielsen Philippines' Total Viewers.

DID YOU KNOW...

Dulce's reaction: "I'm so glad I decided to entrust my story to CBN Asia. We really connected and God's hope and love to so many people. That was our main goal in doing my life story, to tell them that here is hope in Christ despite life's tough times and trials."

"PROTEGES: (from left) Thea Ramirez, Mikay Morales, Zandra Guevara, Ben Madrid, Jan Gonzales and Thea Tolentino

'Protégé' winners surprised

By Marinell R. Cruz

"SHE MET"

That was the question Thea Tolentino asked herself when she was declared female winner of GMA-7's reality talent show "Protégé." The first before the "Big Artists Break," on Sunday night.

Brother Thea are main champion Aris Gonzales expected to win. "I was surprised when my name was called." Thea told Sta. Inquirer after the finale held at the GMA-7 studios in Quezon City. "I thought Elle (Santiago) was it."

Aris himself was sure Sam Madrid would get the top prize. "My luck is acting, which is my weakness," Aris said. "I was hoping on the fact that I could sing well."

Thea and Aris, both from Laguna, received the highest ratings from judges Joey de Leon, Cherie Gil, Annette Gozon-Abrogar and Ryan de Leon, as well as the biggest number of SMS votes.

Each received a package worth P12 million in prizes, including P1 million from SM Supermalls, a two-book-to-cut deal from Anvil Publishing Inc., a Ryan Cayabyab-arranged recording with GMA Artist Center, and a scholarship from STI College.

Gino Abaja and Julian Maglozzo, members of Team and Jeric, respectively, both won P500,000 each.

"My parents just wanted to see me reach the finals," said Thea, 16, eldest of four and only daughter of Nestor and Lea Tolentino.

Top 6

Thea, Aris, Elle, Sam, Mikay Morales and Zandra Summer were the top 6 finalists.

Aris admitted that he wanted to quit on one point during the three-month competition. "Mikay and Sam, eliminate jan sila. Sobrang [I was] nervous from the judges. I'm glad I did not give up," he said. I rerouted kasi ako."

At 10, Aris is the youngest of four kids of Liza and Godofredo, a retired government employee. He finished a nursing degree at the Columbia Doctors College.

"I had always wanted to try show biz, my parents wanted me to finish school first," Aris said.

Thea recalled her mentor Gino's advice: "Kaya and worry shouldn't keep anyone away from a dream." She reminded that she won "because the judges can love much I improved, from shy to confident."

For the finale, the six protégés faced a "drama challenge," where they acted alongside GMA-7's soap opera stars.

Thea did a confrontation scene with Heart Evangelista in "Love Blanca"; Aris, a dramatic scene with Iza Calzado in "Coffee Prince."

Sam acted with Bubot Pertido in "Paano ang Kasuyo ni Mokong"; Mikay with Andrea Torres in "Sana Di Dyan Sa Iyo"; Zandra with Wynn Tapawan in "Magdalena." Elle did a solo dramatic performance in "Ate in Ang Swapa."

Aside Protégé host Jennylyn Mercado opened the finale with a song-and-dance number with the top 20 contestants. Gino and Julian, as well as student Roderick Paulate, Ruby Ruiz and Philip Salvador, performed the "Caped Crusader." Engineering Dennis shared hosting chores with Carla Abellana and Marian Rivera.

First project

Thea and Aris intend to use their prize money to help their respective families. Aris said he would use a portion "to show my appreciation" for supporters, especially those who helped him win the Teen's Choice Award and a cash prize of P20,000.

"I'm grateful because Mr. Antonio never gave up on me," said Aris.

For their first TV project, Thea and Aris will join the cast of the coming youth-oriented series, "TEAS."

HOTSHOT

Bo Cerrudo, Jon Santos at Music Museum

PERFORMING artist Bo Cerrudo, currently playing the coveted role of Mongkut in Resorts World Manila's production of "The King and I," also stars in "I <3 Manila (Sana ngo, It's Mutual)," on the Philippines' 111th Jon Santos and The Company" at the Music Museum, all Wednesdays of October and November, plus Nov. 22 and 23.

BO CERRUDO

One more Hanibal

"Kinship" for Pe Aga" performance Dec. 28, 8 p.m. at Crown Plaza Hotel's grand ballroom. The two-hour musical concert stars food-obsessed Pinoys Mr. Chi, foremost of which are the biggest Hanibal fans "Pete Lah," "Mas Umuwi ng Buhay Ko," "Bongga ka Teh" and the group's other hallmark compositions.

The moments take guests most of the original Hanibal members—Rene and Dennis Garcia, drummer Jess Garcia, vocalists Gino Morales, Blaise Biel, Joy Rivera, Bea Trinidad and Arthur Miranda.

The concert is for the benefit of cancer-stricken deaf, and proceeds under the care of the Undying Wishes of Pinoys Inc., formerly United We Philippines Inc.

Call 643-0878 for tickets.

Macabangkay festival

The Bloomfields will be featured in the Oriental-style celebrations at Macabangkay Beach Hotel in Lian, Batangas, on Oct. 27. Entrance tickets at P350 each comes with one free bottle of San Miguel Beer.